FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 99 *22 May 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO Executive Committee Meets; PCC To Meet [VOP]	A 1	1/A7
Statement Issued	A 1	1/A7
Spokesman Comments [VOP]	A 1	1/A7
'Arafat Opens Session of Cultural Council [VOP]	A 2	1/A8
PNC Chairman Receives Robert Mugabe, Delegation [VOP]	A 2	1/A8
Palestinian Resistance Organization Issues Statement [Kuwait AS-SIYASAH 14 May]	A 3	1/A9
VOP Reports Jordanian Workers' Statement on 15 May	A 5	1/A11
Responsibility for Orly Attack Claimed	A 6	1/A12
VOP Reports on Fedayeen Operations in Israel	A 6	1/A12
Further Report [VOP]	A 7	1/A13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

SAUDI ARABIA

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives on Visit to Saudi Arabia	C 1	1/A14
Meets With Prince Fahd	C 1	1/A14
Report on Talks	C 1	1/A14
Talks Conclude	C 1	1/A14
Riyadh Radio Comments on Senate Decision	C 2	1/B1

YEMEN--PDRY

Defense Minister Receives Soviet Naval Chief	C 2	1/B1
Gorshkov Visits Naval Force	C 3	1/B2

YEMEN--YAR

Rumors of Rebellion 'Categorically' Denied	C 3	1/B2
Interior Minister Visits Ta'izz Region	C 3	1/B2

EGYPT

As-Sadat Comments on U.S. Aircraft Deal	D 1	1/B3
Press Comments	D 1	1/B3
As-Sadat Speaks to Workers Representatives	D 2	1/B4
Polling Takes Place; As-Sadat Votes	D 4	1/B6
Interior Minister To Announce Referendum Results	D 4	1/B6
AL-AKHBAR Editor Comments	D 4	1/B6
Lawyers Reportedly Boycott	D 5	1/B7
Baghdad: Lawyer Calls For Canceling Emergency Law	D 6	1/B8
Leftist Arrested for Distributing Declaration	D 6	1/B8
Baghdad: Leftist Deputy al-Hariri Released	D 6	1/B8
Foreign Ministry Source Comments on Zaire	D 6	1/B8

Egypt Reportedly Sends Planes to Zaire	D 7	1/B9
Minister Kamil To Address UN, Meet With Vance	D 7	1/B9
As-Sadat Invites Saudi Monarch to Egypt	D 8	1/B10
Baghdad: Journalists' Political Activities To Be Cut	D 8	1/B10
Attorney General Orders Release of Swiss Couple	D 8	1/B10
Jordanian Official Says He Is on Private Visit	D 8	1/B10

IRAQ

Ba'th Official Addresses Moroccan Party Delegation	E 1	1/B11
Turkey Signs Agreement on Transit of Iraqi Goods	E 1	1/B11
RCC Vice Chairman Receives Message From French Premier	E 1	1/B11
Interior Minister Returns From 3-Day Visit to Kuwait	E 1	1/B11
Reports to President	E 2	1/B12
Finance Minister Leaves for OPEC Meeting in Vienna	E 2	1/B12
Iraqi, Greek Ministers Begin Talks in Baghdad	E 2	1/B12
INA Reports on Iraqi-Greek Economic, Trade Relations	E 2	1/B12
Briefs: Official to Cuba	E 2	1/B12

JORDAN

King Husayn Welcomes Federation With Palestinian State	F 1	1/B13
King Husayn Leaves for Saudi Arabia 20 May	F 1	1/B13
AR-RA'Y Expects U.S. Moves, Israeli Surprises [22 May]	F 1	1/B13

LEBANON

UN Assistant Secretary General Guyer Arrives in Beirut [Voice of Lebanon]	G 1	1/B14
Received by President Sarkis	G 1	1/B14
Meets With Al-Huss, Butrus	G 1	1/B14
Leaves for Damascus	G 2	1/C1
General Erskine Comments on Mission of UNIFIL	G 2	1/C1
Prime Minister al-Huss Meets With Iraqi Ambassador	G 3	1/C2
AS-SAFIR: Lebanon, PLO Hold Contacts on Shtawrah Pact Implementation	G 3	1/C2
Voice of Lebanon: UN Forces, Palestinians Clash	G 3	1/C2
INA Reports Israeli Administrative Measures in S. Lebanon	G 3	1/C2

SYRIA

AL-BA'TH Scores Proposed U.S. Solutions in Mideast [16 May]	H 1	1/C3
U.S. Arms Aid to Israel Hampers Peace in Mideast	H 1	1/C3
ATH-THAWRAH Comments on 'Invasion' of Zaire	H 3	1/C5
Minister of State Addresses Nonalined Meeting	H 3	1/C5
Syria Objects to Abrogation of Cairo Agreement	H 4	1/C6
Ba'th Leader Visits ELF Office in Damascus, Promises Aid	H 4	1/C6
Foreign Minister Khaddam Receives UN's Guyer	H 5	1/C7

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B Scores 'Imperialist Intervention' in Zaire [15 May]	I 1	1/C8
Government Protests Belgian Overflights	I 2	1/C9
FRG Social Democrat Chairman Brandt Arrives in Algiers	I 2	1/C9
Brandt, Boumediene Hold Talks	I 3	1/C10
Brandt Comments on Talks	I 3	1/C10

SUDAN

Khartoum: U.S. State Department Official Received by Numayri	I 4	1/C11
Meets With Vice President	I 4	1/C11
Planning Minister Holds Talks With USAID Delegation	I 5	1/C12
Vice President Receives Soviet Ambassador	I 5	1/C12

WESTERN SAHARA

Defense Minister Gives Moroccan, Mauritanian Combat Losses	I 5	1/C12

ISRAEL

Cabinet Issues Communique on Aircraft Deal	N 1	1/C13
MA'ARIV Comments on Group Responsible for Orly Attack [21 May]	N 1	1/C13
Ousting of PLO Observers From UN Group To Be Sought [MA'ARIV 21 May]	N 1	1/C13
Total Withdrawal From S. Lebanon in 3-4 Weeks	N 2	1/C14
West Bank Notables Ask PLO To Release IDF Prisoner	N 2	1/C14
Good Fence Station To Be Moved East of Metullah [MA'ARIV 21 May]	N 2	1/C14
Jerusalem Comments on U.S. Stand on Negotiations	N 3	1/D1
Israel To Reply to U.S. After Egyptian Proposals ['AL HAMISHMAR 21 May]	N 3	1/D1
Egypt Hints at Possible Direct Approach [DAVAR 19 May]	N 3	1/D1
HA'AREZ Comments on Negotiations With Egypt [19 May]	N 4	1/D2
Judaea, Samaria Land To Be Allocated to Gush Emunim	N 5	1/D3
Expropriation of West Bank Land Reported [HA'AREZ 19 May]	N 5	1/D3

IRAN

Report on Iranian Aid Cut for Pakistan Denied	R 1	1/D4
Karachi Radio Report	R 1	1/D4
DPRK Vice President Given Reception by Princess Ashraf	R 1	1/D4
Meets With Prime Minister	R 1	1/D4
Briefs: Oil Production	R 1	1/D4

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Foreign Minister Amin Holds Press Conference in Havana	S 1	1/D5
Delhi: Foreign Minister Amin Happy With India Ties	S 4	1/D8
TANJUG Reports People's Democratic Party's Acts	S 4	1/D8
Kabul Warns Food Producers, Sellers Against Deception	S 4	1/D8
Taraki Meets Tribal Officials From Paktia Province	S 4	1/D8
Tribe, Local Leaders Send Congratulations to Kabul	S 5	1/D9

BANGLADESH

Help for Burmese Refugees Sought From UN S 5 1/D9

INDIA

Foreign Secretary Mehta Holds Talks in Moscow S 6 1/D10
Talks Conclude S 6 1/D10
Bangladesh Evacuees Reportedly Entering Tripura S 7 1/D11
Newspaper Reports U-2's Based in India Overflew PRC S 7 1/D11
Vajpayee Leaves for Visit to FRG, Austria S 7 1/D11
Jagjivan Ram Leaves for USSR Visit 22 May S 7 1/D11

NEPAL

Soviet Delegation Arrives To Hold Oil, Trade Talks S 8 1/D12
PRC Boundary Panel Official Calls on Premier Bista S 8 1/D12

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MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

55

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PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS; PCC TO MEET

JN201803Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting in Damascus this morning under Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

The meetings of the PLO Central Council [PCC] are scheduled to begin in Damascus this evening, chaired by brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council. This meeting will be attended by brother leader Abu 'Ammar. Brother Khalid al-Fahum stated that the PCC will discuss establishing the time and venue for a meeting of the National Council. It will also review the recent and current developments in the region and As-Sadat's continuation of his initiative with Israel.

Statement Issued

JN211725Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Central Council has reiterated that Arab solidarity must serve the aims of the Arab nation in liberating the land and returning and realizing the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine. In a statement issued today at the conclusion of its meetings that was read by the chairman of the Palestine National Council, Khalid al-Fahum, the council stressed that Arab solidarity, in form and spirit, must be based on a confrontation of the Zionist occupation and the imperialist forces which back Zionist aggression and expansion. The statement said that Arab solidarity demands the mobilization of Arab political, military, economic and oil resources to serve the causes of the Arab nation and particularly the principal Arab cause of Palestine.

The PLO Central Council rejected any Arab summit that would fall under the shadow of As-Sadat's capitulatory initiative and his political line. The statement stressed the need to strengthen the national steadfastness and confrontation front, deepen its strategic and political line and work for the convocation of a summit of this front in the shortest possible time, in order to complete its charter and draw up its plan of action for the next stage. The council saluted the Arab people of Palestine in the occupied homeland who are bravely confronting the Zionist enemy and its occupation and who are opposing its aggressive settlement policy, its racist and fascist policies and its plans for the liquidation [?of the Palestinians].

The statement saluted the Arab people of Egypt and their patriotic forces who are fighting for the protection of the real interests of the Arab nation and who are confronting the dubious projects which contradict the national rights of the Palestinian people, thereby serving the interests of Zionism and U.S. imperialism.

The council recommended that the Palestine National Council convene on 15 August. The venue of the meeting will be fixed later.

Spokesman Comments

JN211835Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] The Palestine Central Council [PCC] continues its session which began yesterday in Damascus under brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], with the attendance of brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The council's meetings are scheduled to last 2 days, during which the current Palestinian, Arab and international situation will be discussed. The council will listen to reports from brother Abu 'Ammar and the PLO Executive Committee members on their visits and activities during the period between the convication of the council's two sessions.

The council will also discuss the situation in southern Lebanon following the occupation by the Zionist forces, the task of UNIFIL and ways of dealing with these forces. The question of Palestinian national unity will be a central link in the meeting. The discussions will seek the means to insure that this unity might be consolidated among the Palestinian revolution's factions on the basis of the Palestinian National Charter and the decisions of the National Council. The Central Council will examine the current political moves in the region in the context of the steadfastnesss and confrontation of the capitulatory plots which are directed against the steadfastness of the Palestinian revolution.

Brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee, then said: I have proposed 15 August to the Central Council as the date for the convention of the Palestine National Council, with the venue to be decided later on. He added that the Executive Committee had held a meeting late yesterday under brother Abu 'Ammar and discussed the Palestinian and Arab political situation in the wake of international developments. It also became acquainted with the letter recently addressed by King Husayn to brother Abu 'Ammar, which was one of the letters he addressed to a number of Arab kings and presidents on Jordan's viewpoint regarding the current Arab situation. Brother Abu Mayzar added that the committee discussed this letter and prepared a reply on the basis of the committee's adherence to the resolutions of the summit meeting of the steadfastness and confrontation front in Algiers. He further said: The Executive Committee has studied the Palestinian situation in Lebanon and decided to form a delegation from the committee to meet with the Lebanese officials and discuss Palestinian-Lebanese issues.

'ARAFAT OPENS SESSION OF CULTURAL COUNCIL

JN211730Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, opened the session of the Higher Council of Education, Culture and Science in Damascus at noon today. The brother leader delivered a speech in which he talked about the importance of culture and science in the Palestinian revolution and concentrated on the importance of setting priorities in the field of education.

The questions of higher education for the sons of Palestine in the occupied homeland and in all places where they are concentrated, as well as the issue of open popular Palestinian universities, will be some of the important topics to be discussed by the council. During its session, which will conclude tomorrow evening, the council will also review several reports from the PLO cultural institutions.

PNC CHAIRMAN RECEIVES ROBERT MUGABE, DELEGATION

JN201911Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, received the day before yesterday a delegation representing the Zimbabwe African National Union [ZANU], led by Robert Mugabe, who is currently visiting Syria; [the delegation left Syria on 19 May.]

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi and Talal Naji, members of the PLO Executive Committee; the Fatah representative in Syria [name not given]--and 'Umar ash-Shihabi, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--General Command.

Brother Khalid al-Fahum briefed the visiting delegation on the latest developments on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels. He also expressed the Palestinian revolution's absolute support for the national liberation movement in Zimbabwe against the racist regime of Ian Smith and those supporting him. He expressed the PLO's readiness to promote its relations with the national liberation movement in Zimbabwe.

The Palestinian delegation was also briefed in detail by Mugabe on the situation in Zimbabwe and the continuous plots of Ian Smith's racist regime, which aims at continuing the usurpation of the Zimbabwean people's rights to independence, national sovereignty and self-determination. He also revealed the details of the suspicious Anglo-American plans aimed at dominating the people of Zimbabwe and disclosed the special relations between the Zionist-racist entity in Palestine and the racist regime in South Africa.

Brother Khalid al-Fahum hailed the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe and stressed his confidence in their triumph and the inevitability of the triumph of the Palestinian revolution over imperialism and racism.

At the end of the meeting, Mugabe reaffirmed the support of his party, the National Front and the Zimbabwean people for the just struggle of the Palestinian people for their repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their democratic state. He also stressed his belief in the inevitable victory of the Palestinian and African revolution over the forces of imperialism and racism.

PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ORGANIZATION ISSUES STATEMENT

LD191630Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 14 May 78 p 18 LD

[Text of statement issued by the Palestinian popular struggle front on 15 May anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine]

[Excerpts] On every sad occasion or anniversary we repeat in speeches and articles what we have said before, blame imperialism and Zionism for what has befallen the Palestine problem, and laud the sacrifices of our Palestinian people and the Arab liberation movement for supporting the struggle of these people against the invading enemies.

If we recall the past we indeed find that Zionist-imperialist plotting caused the usurpation of Palestine, the dispersion of its people, and the continued conspiracy to prevent the Palestinian people from returning to the soil of their homeland. But how has the role of the Palestinian people and their leadership fared in all this?

Since the dawn of the history of what is known as the "Palestine problem" the Palestinian people have struggled against imperialism, division, and Zionist colonization and have offered great sacrifices in money and blood. At most stages the struggle and liberation plans of the Palestinian people failed or were thwarted. The most obvious examples were the 1936 strike and the 1939 revolution. Even after the PLO came into being and PLO leaderships of different trends emerged, the leadership failed to fulfill the aspirations of all the Palestinian masses and has been unable to respond to the people's desire and heroic struggle and resolve to fully liberate their Palestinian soil.

As a result, every time the Palestinian people have mobilized their forces and escalated their struggle against their traditional enemies, their efforts have always failed because of the failure of the PLO leadership. This happened in Jordan, where the PLO leadership's abandonment of its duty and appeasing attitude led to the September massacre and the Jarash massacre. This also happened in Lebanon, where the Palestinian people participated with the Lebanese people in their struggle against political and economic feudalism and against conspiracies to liquidate the presence of the Palestinian people. This alliance had almost achieved decisive victories that could have changed a great deal in the situation. But for no justifiable reasons, and because of the wrong decisions and actions of the leadership, the tide was checked and the retreat began, thus leading to the terrible catastrophes beginning with the Tall az-Za'tar incidents and leading to the rest of the well-known events.

When the Zionist occupation forces invaded southern Lebanon and the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces resisted the invasion and scored splendid victories in their heroic stand against this barbaric invasion and showed readiness to continue the armed struggle so as to defeat the enemy forces and chase them into the enemy territories, the PLO leadership issued a decision accepting Security Council Resolution 425 that calls for a cessation of fighting, withdrawal of the invading Zionist forces and the deployment of UN forces. The PLO leadership also made the decision to cooperate with the UN forces and help facilitate their tasks. Such tasks, as is known, are not intended to drive out the Zionist forces but to implement the plot of massacring the Palestinian people and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. Thus the leadership thwarted the efforts to escalate the Palestinian armed struggle. There are many other examples of thwarting the struggle.

This has taken place on the level of the revolutionary and heroic armed struggle of our Palestinian people. On the political level, the strategy adopted by the present PLO leadership is one of political maneuvering, even if this should mean appeasing certain regimes at the expense of the Palestine problem and becoming involved in alliances with powers that are still conspiring and striking at the Palestinian revolutionary forces. We do not wish here to discuss all the details, but it would be enough to mention some, such as the strategic retreat at the various meetings of the Palestine Central Council from previous revolutionary decisions; the adoption of the surrender line; the negotiations carried out by some PLO representatives with representatives of Zionist parties; the discussion of the Kreisky document and others.

The latest retreat in this regard was the statement made by the PLO representative at the United Nations on the recognition of Israel as a fait accompli and the press statement made by a senior PLO official that it is possible to coexist with Israel and that a small Palestinian state that wants to establish itself cannot attack Israel. Also, delegates were sent to Romania in order to negotiate with Ceausescu following the Zionist foreign minister's visit to Romania--with Romania acting as a mediator.

Despite all its failures, the PLO took part in the Tripoli conference of steadfastness and confrontation and approved its resolutions, which include the implementation of Palestinian national unity. But the leadership has not taken a single step in this direction. On the contrary, it has withheld arms supplies from certain resistance factions. Instead of uniting the factions, it became involved in an armed clash aimed at striking out against the correct revolutionary course in favor of a course to accept peace.

We do not wish to challenge the patriotism and revolutionary ideology of the PLO leadership, but should we absolve ourselves of its shortcomings and mistakes?

When a nation is facing a menacing danger as ours is today, it pauses for a moment in order to reckon with itself, to bring the leadership to account and to study the positive and negative aspects of its actions. No one should be favored, absolved or appeased, there are many such examples of that in history. Will our people pause for a moment of self-reckoning or for reevaluating their conditions?

In such circumstances, the Palestine National Council should meet to reevaluate and criticize the situation, bring those who have failed to account and draw up a new strategy.

We are supposed to deepen Palestinian national unity in deeds and not in words. We are supposed to frankly reject and oppose Security Council Resolution 425. We are supposed to reject the convening of an Arab summit that would endorse As-Sadat's treacherous steps and Arab approval of such surrender steps.

We are supposed to turn the occupied areas into a hell for the enemy and fight him with all our means.

The mass of our people are always ready to offer sacrifices. Every time the masses escalate their struggle they meet with failure and their efforts are thwarted. Do we want the masses to lose their confidence in the leadership? This is a very serious matter that we never want to see happen, the leadership must always keep ahead of the base and up to the level of its aspirations. It must not place a stumbling block in the face of implementing revolutionary objectives. Our people are determined to continue the armed struggle for the sake of liberating their homeland and restoring their dignity and right in life, they will oppose anyone who stands in the way of achieving their objectives. If we blame others because they conspire against us--which is a fact--we must not at the same time expect our enemy to stop plotting against us. Rather, we must mobilize all our forces in order to thwart his conspiring. The most powerful weapon in our hand is our belief in our cause and our readiness to make sacrifices for the sake of achieving our objectives.

Victory is always the lot of fighters and the tree of freedom is watered with blood and not with tears. Long live the struggle of the Palestinian people for the sake of the total liberation of Palestinian soil.

Victory is for the people, and death and disgrace is for the enemies of freedom and the peoples.

VOP REPORTS JORDANIAN WORKERS' STATEMENT ON 15 MAY

JN191935Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 19 May 78 JN

[Text] The Jordanian workers have called on the Arab masses to strengthen their struggle to support the Palestinian revolution and to foil the policy of political settlement and the plans of Arab reaction--which is alined with imperialism--and to work for the unity of all Arab struggle forces in confronting the Zionist-imperialist-reactionary conspiracy.

This is contained in a statement issued the day before yesterday by the legitimate Executive Committee of the General Federation of Jordanian Workers on the occasion of 15 May, the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine.

The statement praises the splendid steadfastness of the Palestinian fighters and says: On this occasion, we greet the Palestinian people and their splendid steadfastness and glorious national struggle against the Zionist occupation, and greatly admire the determination of this people to confront all capitulatory plans, policies and challenges, despite the oppressive measures being practiced against them.

The statement concludes: We urge our Arab nation and its national armies to support the Palestinian revolution and its steadfastness so as to enable this revolution to continue fighting until it regains the full rights of the Palestinian people on the land of Palestine.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORLY ATTACK CLAIMED

JN211935Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] The organization of the sons of southern Lebanon distributed in Beirut last night a statement announcing its responsibility for the daring attack on an El Al airliner in Orly Airport yesterday. The statement said that the organization waged this attack in reply to the Zionist aggression on southern Lebanon last March.

The statement, which was distributed to the offices of the newspapers in Beirut, added that the target of the attack was a number of Zionist enemy officers who were to fly aboard the Zionist airliner. The statement explained that the Zionist enemy's attempt to conceal the number of those killed does not belittle the operation or its objective, which was to strike at the Zionist enemy who destroyed the villages of our southern Lebanon and killed unarmed civilians, including women, children and old people, during his usurpation of the land.

The organization named the operation Al-'Abasiyah, after a village several kilometers to the northeast of the city of Tyre in southern Lebanon, where about 200 of its sons were killed in the barbaric air raids and bombardment during the Zionist aggression on southern Lebanon.

The statement also said that this operation was also designed to remind the French Government of its colonialist past and its direct intervention against the revolutionaries of Chad, the Western Sahara, southern Lebanon and Zaire.

On the other hand, the enemy radio admitted last night that the Zionist Labor Minister Yisra'el Katz was one of several Zionist personalities aboard the Zionist airliner which was the target of the attack in the airport. The Zionist enemy also admitted the death in this operation of a Zionist enemy officer holding the rank of brigadier general.

VOP REPORTS ON FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS IN ISRAEL

JN201838Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian fighters are continuing their heroic operations against the Zionist enemy and his establishments inside the occupied homeland. A spokesman of the general command of the Palestinian revolution this morning read two military statements on the operations carried out by the Ad-Dakhil forces [forces operating inside Palestine] on 18 [as heard] and 20 May.

In the first statement the spokesman said that a group of our fighters operating inside the occupied homeland moved toward its target in the Bimisrakh area northeast of Tel Aviv and placed high explosives and time bombs at the entrance of a building used by enemy officers. The charges went off at dawn today, 20 May, and the explosion completely destroyed four apartments in the building. The walls of the building were cracked and some cars near the building were damaged. Windowpanes in nearby buildings were also shattered. Police and civil defense forces rushed to the scene and began to take the wounded and dead to hospitals. Fire units evacuated the building because of the serious cracks in the walls. Explosives experts began an intensive search for undetonated charges in nearby buildings. The enemy admitted that the operation is the second in 24 hours in the same area.

In the second statement the spokesman said that a fighting group operating inside the occupied homeland was able to plant a time bomb in the entrance of the second floor of a building used by the enemy intelligence forces and the civil guards as their headquarters in No 2 Street in the [name indistinct] area, a Tel Aviv suburb. The charge went off as scheduled at dawn on Friday, 19 May. The explosion destroyed two floors of the 4-story building and cracked the walls of the other two. A number of enemy personnel near the building were killed or wounded. The ambulances could not remove the dead and wounded until the other buildings on the street were searched by explosives experts to insure that they were free of explosives. The enemy police immediately launched a campaign of arrests against the Palestinian citizens who happened to be near the building. The enemy police set up barricades and checkposts to help the search for our fighters, who were able to return safely to base in both the operations.

Further Report

JN211705Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian revolutionaries yesterday attacked a Zionist military patrol in the 'Askar Camp near Nabulus with incendiary bombs while it was patrolling the area. The revolutionaries also attacked an enemy police force which came to help the patrol, inflicting serious losses in life and equipment. This was announced by the military spokesman of the general command of the Palestinian revolution forces. In his statement today the spokesman said: At 2315 yesterday, one of our special groups operating inside the occupied homeland launched an attack with incendiary bombs on an enemy police patrol while it was performing its tasks in the 'Askar camp near Nabulus in the occupied West Bank. The group managed to inflict grave losses on the Zionist forces, which sought help.

When the enemy support force, which consisted of military vehicles and a halftrack, tried to reach the camp, our revolutionaries surprised it with incendiary bombs, inflicting losses. Our group later managed to insure its withdrawal from the camp area successfully. A curfew was imposed on the Palestinian camp at 2330 yesterday and has remained in force until the time this report was prepared--1400 today. The Zionist forces are combing all houses and shops in search of our revolutionaries. The Zionist enemy radio admitted the operation. A spokesman of the Zionist police said that the curfew was imposed in the wake of the attack on a military vehicle inside the 'Askar camp and that the police force is investigating the incident. Reports indicated that our sons in the camp today clashed with the enemy forces encircling the camp and that our sons hurled stones at these forces. The reports added that the occupation forces have arrested scores of citizens and [word indistinct] women and children with the ugliest means of terror and oppression.

SAUDI ARABIA

JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN ARRIVES ON VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

LD201716Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1554 GMT 20 May 78 LD

[Summary] Jidda, 20 May, SNA--His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Jidda this afternoon on a short visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed at the airport by His Royal Highness Amir Fahd, Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Amir Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, commander of the national guard; ministers and senior military and civilian officials.

Meets With Prince Fahd

LD211212Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 21 May 78 LD

[Summary] Jidda, 21 May, SNA--Talks between His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan and His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, started at noon today at the Al-Hamra' Palace. On the Saudi side, the talks were attended by Amir 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; Shaykh Hasan Mansuri, under secretary for foreign affairs; and Shaykh Ibrahim as-Sultan, Saudi ambassador to Jordan. On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by the chief of the Jordanian court, 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf; Amir Khamash, minister of the Jordanian court; and Nasir ad-Din al-Asad, Jordanian ambassador to the Saudi Kingdom.

Report on Talks

JN211540Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi viceroy and crown prince, resumed their talks at noon today. They held an official meeting at the Al-Hamra' Palace, which included a comprehensive appraisal of the Arab situation and a review of Arab efforts to achieve accord and solidarity among the Arab brothers, confront the occupation of the Arab territories and tackle the Palestine issue from a unified Arab stand within the context of joint Arab action. They also discussed the problem of devising adequate means to strengthen fraternal relations and joint cooperation between the two fraternal kingdoms.

Talks Conclude

JN220512Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met in the royal court in Jidda yesterday evening with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. They completed their discussion of the subjects they had dealt with at earlier meetings.

His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, made a statement. He said that His Majesty King Husayn's talks with His Highness Prince Fahd included a comprehensive analysis of the situation in the area, the dangers facing the Arabs and the necessity for Arab solidarity and joint action to ward off these dangers and guard against the crisis and the efforts being made to end Israeli occupation and to insure the legitimate Palestinian rights. During the talks the two sides exchanged views and coordinated stands in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity. At the same time they discussed bilateral issues and aspects of fraternal cooperation. As is always the case, the talks were very useful and were characterized by a fraternal and friendly spirit in the interest of joint action for the Arab nation.

RIYADH RADIO COMMENTS ON SENATE DECISION

LD192230Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 May 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The approval this week by the American Senate of the American aircraft deal for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt is considered the most important event of the week, because of the numerous implications of the approval. These include: the Senate's approval of the deal for the Middle Eastern countries in one sense represents a true triumph for the policy of American President Jimmy Carter and for his clear vision of the facts in the Arab region. It also represents a fundamental shift in that the American leadership's view coincided with that of the people, which is that the interests of the American people are closely linked with the interests of the Arab people, and it is in the interest of the two sides to proceed along the road of strengthening their relationship and to proceed together to find a just and all-embracing solution to the Middle East question, for the negative and positive connections between the Arab people and the American people. The American Senate's approval of the deal--and this an important aspect--is considered a triumph of rational, calm Saudi diplomacy, which has been described by Beirut's AN-NAHAR as the policy of patience adopted by His Majesty King Faysal, may Allah bless him, nourished and applied after him by His Majesty Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, may Allah protect him, and accurately planned by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his majesty's deputy and crown prince, through which the Kingdom has achieved the first and only complete victory over Israel since its establishment and during its 30th birthday. American political quarters consider the Senate's decision to mean that U.S. support for the moderate Arab countries has increased and that the special relations which existed between Washington and Israel are in conflict with other special relations which have arisen with some Arab countries. These quarters have described the deal as leading to an improvement of relations with both the Kingdom and Egypt, as it will also help in achieving peace. They also stress that the American administration should look at all facets of American policy in the Middle East from the point of view of American interests.

All that remains to point out is that the main and basic aim of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's policy of arming itself with modern weapons--after continuously arming itself with faith in Allah and its correct Arab, Islamic and international course--the aim is to enable the Saudi citizen to be strong enough to defend his homeland, to protect the holy places and to support the right not to commit aggression against anyone. The Kingdom's policy in this sphere, in the past, present and future, affirms the good intentions of our officials toward others. It is the love of good and work to make humanity happy and to build its culture. The Kingdom, as High Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation said, believes in right and justice and does not use force except to uphold them and to lay their foundations. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia--inasmuch as it wants to be a powerful state--has no aggressive intentions. This was declared by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his majesty's deputy and crown prince. He said: The Kingdom believes in peace founded on justice, fairness and respect for the full rights of others, and in its strikes for this (?target) it seeks the stability and prosperity of the peoples of this region of the world.

YEMEN--PDRY

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET NAVAL CHIEF

LD191636Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 May 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Defense Minister 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar this morning received Adm Sergey Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Soviet naval forces, and the delegation accompanying him.

They discussed relations between the two friendly countries and ways of developing them. Earlier, the Soviet admiral and his delegation laid a wreath on the martyrs monument at At-Tawwahi.

Gorshkov Visits Naval Force

LD202050Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 May 78 LD/EA

[Text] This morning Comrade Adm Sergey Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Soviet naval fleet, and his delegation visited the naval forces. The visiting delegation was received by the staff of the naval forces, a number of senior officers and a guard of honor. A cordial meeting took place between Comrade Admiral Gorshkov and the brother commander of the naval forces. Later the Soviet admiral recorded some remarks in the visitors book, in which he praised the development witnessed by the naval forces of Yemen and wished them further progress and prosperity.

The delegation was accompanied on this visit by Brother Husayn Ahmad Amjad, commander of the naval forces and head of the guard of honor.

YEMEN--YAR

RUMORS OF REBELLION 'CATEGORICALLY' DENIED

LD201136Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 20 May 78 LD

[Text] Jidda--The Yemen Arab Republic has categorically denied rumors about an insurgence against the state. In a statement issued today by the Yemeni Embassy in Jidda, it stressed that the situation in Yemen is normal and stability prevails throughout the country. Here is the text of the embassy statement:

Certain press sources are circulating rumors about the existence of an insurgence against the state in the Yemen Arab Republic. The embassy categorically denies these rumors and stresses that the situation in Yemen is normal and that stability prevails throughout the country. It states that all that has happened is that Maj 'Abdallah Muhammad as-Sayif has been appointed to succeed Maj 'Abdallah al-'Alim, who is suffering from a nervous illness.

INTERIOR MINISTER VISITS TA'IZZ REGION

JN191734Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 May 78 JN

[Text] Lt Col Muhsin al-Yusufi, minister of interior and member of the People's Constituent Assembly, today visited the region of Turbah where he met with the governor of Ta'izz, the army officers and officials responsible for security in the region, and the citizens. He conveyed to them all the greetings of the leader of the march, Brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

The citizens of Turbah expressed their great appreciation to the brother president of the republic. They asked the interior minister to convey their greetings and appreciation to Brother Leader and President Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi for his love for the Yemeni people and for his efforts to develop all parts of the republic and satisfy the needs of the citizens.

AS-SADAT COMMENTS ON U.S. AIRCRAFT DEAL

NC211749Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1716 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] Mit Abu al-Kawm, 21 May--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that the reason for the outcry the Israeli leaders have raised over the U.S. Senate's approval of the aircraft deal to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel is that this approval means an end to the Israeli strategy which is based on frustrating any friendship emerging between the United States and the Arab states.

President as-Sadat emphasized that this approval proves that the U.S. interests are different from those of Israel. The president called on the United States to safeguard its interests and at the same time to be just in its actions toward the Middle East states.

In a statement made today on the U.S. aircraft deal, President as-Sadat said that the United States under President Carter has begun to apply a blanaced policy toward the Middle East. This comes after Israel's polarization of the United States for about 30 years.

The president added that this U.S. policy is not balanced in the true sense of the word because Israel continues to enjoy numerous privileges and a special relationship with the United States, enabling it to obtain U.S. weapons worth $5 billion during the past 4 years in addition to economic aid.

The president concluded his statement by thanking President Carter, the U.S. people and Congress for the decision. He said that President Carter, the U.S. people and Congress will not regret having made this decision.

Press Comments

NC190900Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 19 May 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Commenting on the political significance of the U.S. aircraft package deal, the newspaper AL-AHRAM today notes that it cannot be said that the approval of the tripartite aircraft deal by the U.S. Congress has brought the special relationship between the United States and Israel to an end. The clear reason for this is that this relationship has not only been special but very special.

The paper then asserts that the political battle which took place in Congress over the aircraft deal and for which the Zionist pressure groups had mobilized all their forces reveals that awareness has been increasing among the political ranks constituting the complex U.S. political system that the pressure exerted by the Israelis and their supporters to shape U.S. policy in the interest of Israel has reached the point of collision with the interests of the U.S. people as a whole.

The paper points out that two basic factors have indubitably helped in bringing this about. The first factor is the peace initiative, with all its psychological, historical and political dimensions. The second factor is the intertwining of U.S. interests with Arab interests in political and economic fields that are vital to both sides.

AL-AHRAM concludes its commentary by noting that the political significance of the aircraft deal lies within these boundaries.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH rejects the Israeli chain reaction to the U.S. Senate decision on the aircraft deal. The paper asserts that whatever the Israeli reactions to this decision, there is no doubt that Israel, with all the influence it has in the U.S. departments where political decisions are made, will try its utmost to turn the decision in its favor. In other words, Israel will try to limit the negative results of the decision and increase its positive results, either by obtaining more of the most modern U.S. aircraft and weapons or by acquiring the right to manufacture sophisticated U.S. weapons--the most modern planes or tanks--inside Israel. This is what Israel has been seeking from the Carter administration since President Carter came to power--and sought even from former President Ford.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by saying: Therefore, we must maintain a tight watch on all Israeli reactions and attempts so that Israel will not benefit from a decision that was originally issued in its disfavor. We must not just rely on the decision but must take it as only the beginning of obtaining from the United States everything that consolidates and augments our power.

AS-SADAT SPEAKS TO WORKERS REPRESENTATIVES

NC211646Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] This afternoon in Mit Abu al-Kawm, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat received the representatives of the procession of the workers and engineers of Al-Mahallah al-Kubra who went to Mit Abu al-Kawm to congratulate the president on the anniversary of the corrective revolution. Addressing the representatives, President as-Sadat said; [begin recording]

I am indeed happy to have had this opportunity. Al-Mahallah has always been and will continue to be a symbol of the struggle which was initiated by Tal'at Harb. You will always epitomize the genuine Egyptian struggle, away from party squabbles which set the country back. Al-Mahallah has always represented and will continue to represent Egypt's will through construction, not through talk and argument.

I am happy that the person introducing the engineers to me happens to be the chairman of the union. We have been saying since the 23 July Revolution that there will be no turning back at all and that the society of 1 percent masters and 99 percent slaves will never return.

I am very pleased with this spirit that I see before me. I thank you and profoundly appreciate this gesture of yours on this particular day. God willing, I hope that I will be able to visit you in Al-Mahallah in the future.

[Unidentified speaker] God willing on the next Labor Day.

[As-Sadat] God willing, even before then. I hope you will maintain this spirit because it is with this spirit that we want to build Egypt. We are all for construction, fraternity, love and understanding, not bickering and quarrels over matters which will all disappear whatever they may be.

At the time of the subversive incidents, your attitude, or rather the attitude of all Egyptian workers, was magnificent. The aim of these incidents was to destroy our country. The Egyptian workers adopted the attitude they did because Egypt belongs to them.

There will be no return to the 1 percent society or the society of red and other slogans. This is all over and done with and it will never return, God willing. Please convey my thanks, gratitude and appreciation to all the workers and engineers. My greetings to you all. God willing I will see you there in Al-Mahallah. [end recording]

During his meeting with the leaders of the procession of the Al-Minufiyah Governorate, President as-Sadat said: [begin recording]

I am very happy to be meeting with you on this particular day. This fact that you, workers and engineers, have chosen this day to express your sentiments means very much to me. The workers of Egypt have really proved their maturity, will power and fortitude, especially during the dismal events of 18 and 19 January. What is more, they have proved that we will never allow the return of the state of 1 percent. In the past the son of a worker had to be a worker and the son of a peasant had to be a peasant. Why? Because there was only one class which could afford to pay the education expenses. As for the rest, all 99 percent of us, we were servants to the 1 percent class. This will never return under any circumstances.

I am extremely happy. I have already seen your brothers and colleagues of Al-Mahallah. It was a very fine thing that the man who introduced to me the chairman of the Board of Directors and the engineers was the chairman of Al-Mahallah trade union. He was the one who introduced the chairman of the board and the engineers. This is the spirit I want to see. We want a family everywhere, all sharing the same feelings. This is what I want to build throughout Egypt, for all to be like one family sharing the same feelings. Holding a grudge is our worst enemy, as we learned from past experience. There is no need for it. Our country belongs to us, thank God. We make our own decisions. Our decisions do not come from abroad as was the case before the 23 July Revolution. You have heard me talk about this. Even a secretary at the British Embassy could cancel any action by parliament. This is all over and will never return. I want you to build up the family that I am talking about, with steady cooperation between the workers and the officials. The Board of Directors combines workers and officials.

Our only problem today is production. I promise that, God willing, by 1980 we will be out of the bottleneck. However, we must endure. The country, as I have said, is ours, and we do not owe anybody anything. So, let us all be one family. I pray to Almighty God to grant you success, and I hope that you will set an example to all your brothers. God willing, I will meet with you in the future in the production field, as I did when I visited your brothers at the aluminum factory and all the other new communities. I hope I will meet with you in the production field where we will discuss all our affairs as one family as we have done and will always do, God willing. [end recording]

Answering a foreign reporter's question on his feelings today, President as-Sadat said: This day marks an important turning point in Egypt's history, because before the 23 July 1952 Revolution our society was a 1 percent society consisting of the king and his people, and the British Embassy influence. The other 99 percent just served the 1 percent. After the 1952 revolution the individual came to enjoy complete freedom. Today's referendum confirms this. This revolution gave us the firm foundation for rebuilding.

POLLING TAKES PLACE; AS-SADAT VOTES

NC211310Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Millions of citizens are going to 23,100 polling stations in the various governorates today to vote on the principles for safeguarding the internal front and social peace. The polling stations began admitting the citizens at 0800 today. The polling committees are providing all the necessary facilities to enable the citizens to perform this national duty. Some polling stations were designated for women.

President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat voted in his village, Mit Abu al-Kawm, in Al-Minufiyah Governorate. Upon his arrival at the polling station in the elementary school, the president was received by the Al-Minufiyah governor, Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, and the political and popular leaders in the governorate. The citizens welcomed the president with slogans for the long life of the defender of democracy. President as-Sadat reassured himself about the progress of work in the polling station.

INTERIOR MINISTER TO ANNOUNCE REFERENDUM RESULTS

NC201602Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Voting on the six principles on safeguarding the domestic front and social peace will begin at 0800 tomorrow.

Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il will announce the election results on Monday morning in a comprehensive statement that will be carried on radio and television.

AL-AKHBAR Editor Comments

NC191415Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 19 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 May--Musa Sabri, chief editor of the newspaper AL-AKHBAR, has affirmed that the referendum on the principles for protecting the domestic front is aimed at purging the political scene in Egypt of the Marxist danger and at sparing the country and the Egyptian people a bloodbath.

In an article headlined "This Is the True Picture," Sabri reviews the various reasons which have called for holding such a referendum. He says that the communists have found out that President Anwar as-Sadat's leadership has blocked all the roads before them for reaching power. They have thus found no alternative but to demolish this edifice through distorting democracy and slinging mud at everything.

Sabri adds that the communists have found in the economic crisis--the daily suffering of the people from inadequate services and high prices and the low wages of the state employees--an opportunity which might occur again in order to carry out their plan. Sabri explains that the communists in the Leftist Party, the National Progressive Unionist Party, scrupulously adhere to the political line of the Soviet Union. They have also embarked on a campaign of slander and defamation against several leaders and personages.

Sabri says that the communists not only adhere to the Soviet Union's line, which seeks to distort the domestic situation and which clearly aims at getting rid of the leadership of President Anwar as-Sadat and overthrowing the regime, but they also adhere to the Soviet Union's line in its continuous attempt and constant strategy to undermine Egypt's foreign policy.

The communists have also allied themselves with the rejectionist states which hate any success Egypt achieves. He then points out that all this is being done under democracy and freedom of opinion and under a regime which has legalized their presence and which gave them the right to publish a newspaper that is not subjected to any censorship.

Al-AKHBAR's chief editor then explains that the communists prepared their plans on the basis that President Anwar as-Sadat, who is building the system of rule on democratic bases, cannot adopt any decision which might be interpreted as a retreat from democracy, and therefore they believed that he would be unable to act. He adds: The communists have exploited the economic crisis to continue their agitation and incitement campaigns, provoke anger against everything and exploit any errors, which are naturally bound to happen, to create the sort of confusion which will enable the communists to reach power and without which they cannot realize the call of communism and establish the Marxist state.

Sabri points out that what has happened in Ethiopia might whet the appetite of the communist organizations in Egypt, that what has happened in Afghanistan might lead them to believe that it could happen in Egypt and that in this case the Soviet Union would be ready and prepared to immediately provide all the aid necessary.

After reviewing the dimensions of the communist plan, Musa Sabri explains that the Marxists want to destroy democracy completely because this is the only way for them to assume power and establish a communist system.

AL-AKHBAR's chief editor says that the referendum comes to purge the political scene from this overwhelming evil and protect the country from bloodbaths. He then explains that the constitutional head of state, who is responsible for protecting the social system of the country, social peace, national unity, and the socialist and democratic structure, had no alternative but to go back to the people to get their opinion.

In conclusion, Musa Sabri says: The only aim of the public referendum is to protect the democratic structure and pave the way for us to find a solution to the economic crisis through the one opinion and counteropinion which provides solutions and participates in shouldering the responsibility.

Lawyers Reportedly Boycott

JN210843Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] Cairo--The Egyptian lawyers association has joined the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party in Egypt and other national and progressive parties in boycotting the sham referendum which the authorities of the ruling regime in Egypt will hold today.

In a statement issued in this regard, the association said that the alleged referendum is not based on legitimate grounds and is not approved by the constitution. It can only be understood within the framework of the regime's heading toward dictatorship.

The statement added that the Egyptian regime resorted to this method to cover up its scheme to restrict liberties, liquidate the forces of the Egyptian left and alienate certain Egyptian personalities from the political scene in the country.

BAGHDAD: LAWYER CALLS FOR CANCELING EMERGENCY LAW

JN191813Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 May 78 JN

[Text] Cairo--Muhammad Fahim, secretary general of the Lawyers Association in Egypt, has called for canceling the emergency law which was imposed by the ruling regime in Egypt to fetter the people's freedom. In a speech yesterday at a seminar in which a number of lawyers participated, Fahim called for halting referring cases involving freedom of speech to military courts. He also called for stopping military trials and annulling their verdicts against the citizens.

Fahim stressed that the continuation of the emergency law has become meaningless after the Egyptian ruler's declaration that he will not wage a new war against the Zionist enemy. Fahim pointed out that the executive authorities of the As-Sadat regime favor the emergency law because it gives them a free hand to suppress any opposing views.

It should be recalled that, according to the above-mentioned law, the As-Sadat authorities launched large-scale campaigns of repression against the sons of the Arab people in Egypt and jailed many of them. These authorities have also passed oppressive verdicts against others.

LEFTIST ARRESTED FOR DISTRIBUTING DECLARATION

NC192215Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 May 78 NC

[Text] Banha, 19 May--The state security investigation authorities today arrested Muhammad Isma'il 'Amir, official in charge of the Leftist Party in Kafr Shukr in Al-Qalyubiyah Governorate while he was distributing a leaflet carrying the title "The 14 May Declaration." This is the same declaration published by the latest edition of the newspaper AL-AHALI. The south Cairo court has upheld the prosecution department's decision to impound and prevent the distribution of this edition of the newspaper. The accused has admitted distributing the declaration.

BAGHDAD: LEFTIST DEPUTY AL-HARIRI RELEASED

JN212028Y Baghdad Voice of the Egypt of Arabism in Arabic to Egypt 2000 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] Faced with popular pressure, the As-Sadat authorities were compelled to release Abu al-'Izz al-Hariri, People's Assembly member from the Karmuz constituency in Alexandria. The court decided to release Al-Hariri after acquitting him of the charges brought against him.

The Cairo newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that the Bar Association in Cairo has appointed a team of lawyers to defend Abu al-'Izz al-Hariri.

The authorities of Anwar as-Sadat had arrested Abu al-'Izz al-Hariri while he was leading a demonstration in Alexandria in protest against As-Sadat's capitulatory policy.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE COMMENTS ON ZAIRE

NC211410Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 May-- An authoritative source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that the Arab Republic of Egypt is following with interest the current serious situation in the Shaba region in Zaire and the threat it poses to the territorial unity of a fraternal OAU member state.

He added: Egypt has received the appeal of Gabon President Omar Bongo, who is the current chairman of the OAU, in which he urges the OAU member states to help the Republic of Zaire.

The Arab Republic of Egypt reaffirms its adherence to the principle of respect for the territorial integrity of all the fraternal African states. It condemns any attempt to threaten the safety and territorial integrity of the African states.

EGYPT REPORTEDLY SENDS PLANES TO ZAIRE

JN212042Y Baghdad Voice of the Egypt of Arabism in Arabic to Egypt 2000 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] Instead of directing his armed forces to liberate occupied Arab and Egyptian lands, which are still under the occupation of the racist Zionists, reports revealed that Anwar as-Sadat has recruited the Egyptian armed forces for the Zaire incidents and has sent a number of planes to strafe the positions of the revolutionaries in the Shaba region. The reports add that As-Sadat's pilots strafed the positions of the revolutionaries in Kolwezi city in the Shaba region.

Official Zaire sources in Kinshasa said that Anwar as-Sadat was the first to respond to Mobutu's appeal and sent the Egyptian Air Force to the Shaba region to suppress the revolution there.

Correspondents say that officers of the racist Zionist army directed the strafing operations carried out by As-Sadat's pilots. The reports about the participation by As-Sadat's forces in the war going on in the Shaba region aroused a mammoth wave of protest by the various patriotic circles which affirmed that world imperialism is using the regime of the ruling clique in Egypt to carry out its wishes, not only in the Arab area for the interest of the racist Zionist entity, but for the interest of the racist and agent regimes in the southern and central parts of the African Continent as well.

MINISTER KAMIL TO ADDRESS UN, MEET WITH VANCE

NC211745Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 May--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will visit Washington following his visit to New York. In New York Kamil will head the Egyptian delegation to the special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament, which will begin next Tuesday.

During his Washington visit, the foreign minister will hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and with a number of U.S. officials. They will discuss the current Middle East situation.

Kamil will leave Cairo for New York next Saturday. He will deliver Egypt's address to the UN General Assembly on 29 May.

While in New York, the foreign minister is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with a large number of heads of delegations participating in the special session. The session is being held at the recommendation of the nonalined bloc to discuss disarmament and its relationship with the world's development questions. The session will be attended by 18 heads of state and governments and 42 foreign ministers.

AS-SADAT INVITES SAUDI MONARCH TO EGYPT

NC191853Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1848 GMT 19 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 May--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today telephoned His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia in Geneva to reassure himself about his majesty's health. President as-Sadat also invited King Khalid to visit Egypt on his way back to Saudi Arabia.

BAGHDAD: JOURNALISTS' POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TO BE CUT

JN191636Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 May 78 JN

[Text] Cairo--Amid the repressive policy which the ruling regime in Egypt is pursuing against the sons of the Arab people in Egypt, As-Sadat's intelligence organs have compiled a list of 50 progressive journalists and writers in preparation for banishing them from exercising political activities.

Press reports in Cairo say today that the charge levelled against these journalists is their opposition to the UN nationalistic policy which the regime of Anwar as-Sadat is pursuing toward the Zionist enemy's expansionist ambitions.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ORDERS RELEASE OF SWISS COUPLE

NC201844Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 May--The attorney general, Counselor Ibrahim al-Qalyubi, today ordered the release of Swiss journalist (Jean Bakta) and his wife, Doris (Bakta). The couple was arrested along with the members of the terrorist organization whose terrorist plots against the country were recently exposed.

Counselor al-Qalyubi told MENA that he also ordered that the necessary measures be taken for their deportation. This order, he said, was based on the investigations carried out by the higher state security prosecution regarding their position with the other accused persons. He added that there was no material evidence of Mr and Mrs (Bakta's) participation with the members of the terrorist organization.

He also said that in early June the prosecution will announce its findings regarding this terrorist organization and the extent of the involvement of the accused. By then, he said, the position of each accused will be specified on the basis of material evidence supporting whatever charges will be made against each one.

In conclusion Counselor al-Qalyubi said: We must not forget that we are interrogating subjects of friendly states. This is why we are providing all guarantees for the detainees during our investigations, out of our consideration for the interests which link us with these states. This is also why the investigation is taking some time. This delay, however, is only a clear confirmation that justice will take its course according to the law.

JORDANIAN OFFICIAL SAYS HE IS ON PRIVATE VISIT

NC211247Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 May--'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the Jordanian Parliament, has denied that he is currently visiting Cairo as envoy of King Husayn of Jordan. In a statement to MENA, Al-Fayiz said that he is on a private visit. Al-Fayiz arrived in Cairo yesterday afternoon.

BA'TH OFFICIAL ADDRESSES MOROCCAN PARTY DELEGATION

JN212121Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 21 May--Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant Ba'th Party secretary general, has stated that the Ba'th Party believes there must be a common base for the Arab progressive forces if they are to face the basic challenges to the Arab nation represented by disintegration, backwardness, imperialism and Zionism. [Words indistinct] these challenges can be met through the revolutionary solution which rejects half solutions, especially after the humiliating concessions offered to the Zionist enemy by the capitulationist regimes. These concessions increased the enemy's arrogance and intransigence, but the capitulationist regimes are ignoring the racist and Nazi nature of this enemy. Dr ar-Razzaz was speaking during a meeting with the delegation of the Moroccan National Union of Popular Forces headed by (?Abdullah) Ibrahim, the secretary general of the union.

Dr ar-Razzaz referred to the treasonous role played by the Syrian regime to weaken the Arab liberation movement and impose an imperialist and Zionist hegemony over the Arab nation. He said that the Syrian regime, on both internal and external levels, does not differ from the Egyptian regime.

The Moroccan party leader reviewed the developments of the Moroccan national movement and the role of the Moroccan National Union of Popular Forces in these developments. He spoke about the efforts exerted by his party in the service of the Arab people of Morocco in the political, economic and cultural fields.

TURKEY SIGNS AGREEMENT ON TRANSIT OF IRAQI GOODS

JN200945Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May--(Dugan Ayden), director general of railroads in Turkey, left Baghdad this morning following a 1-week visit to Iraq. During the visit, the Turkish delegation signed an agreement with the Iraqi general establishment for railroads regulating the transport of and payment for Iraqi goods passing through Turkish territory. This follows the Syrian regime's decision to close the border to Iraqi goods.

RCC VICE CHAIRMAN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM FRENCH PREMIER

JN218155Y Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1830 GMT 21 May JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May--Revolution Command Council Vice chairman Saddam Husayn has received a written message from French Premier Raymond Barre dealing with international relations and France's position on its participation in the UN forces in Lebanon. The message was conveyed to Saddam Husayn by French Ambassador in Baghdad Jacques Andre Morizet during their meeting in Baghdad today. During the meeting, which was attened by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin, the two sides discussed relations between the two countries.

INTERIOR MINISTER RETURNS FROM 3-DAY VISIT TO KUWAIT

JN181945Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 18 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 May--'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council member and interior minister, and the members of his delegation returned to Baghdad tonight following a 3-day official visit to Kuwait.

Reports to President

JN210820Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has heard a report submitted by 'Izzat Ibrahim, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and interior minister, on his visit to Kuwait. Ibrahim reviewed the meetings of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti committee and the positive results which ensued, strengthening relations between the two fraternal countries in the interests of the Arab nation's issues.

President al-Bakr received 'Izzat Ibrahim here today on the occasion of the latter's return from his official visit to Kuwait. He headed the Iraqi side to the meetings of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti ministerial committee. The RCC member and interior minister had made a 3-day visit to Kuwait at the head of a delegation which included the ministers of trade and foreign affairs, and several senior officials.

FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES FOR OPEC MEETING IN VIENNA

JN211044Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0947 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 May--Fawzi 'Abdallah al-Qaysi, Iraqi finance minister, left this morning for Vienna to attend the OPEC finance ministers' meetings scheduled to begin there on Tuesday.

IRAQI, GREEK MINISTERS BEGIN TALKS IN BAGHDAD

JN211155x Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May--Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi foreign minister, and Yeoryios Rallis, Greece's minister of foreign affairs began talks here this morning. The Greek minister arrived in Baghdad yesterday at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraw which will last several days.

The Greek and Iraqi ministers reviewed bilateral relations and the means to develop these relations. They also exchanged viewpoints on international issues of common interest.

INA REPORTS ON IRAQI-GREEK ECONOMIC, TRADE RELATIONS

JN211355Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May--Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister, met here today with Yeoryios Rallis, Greece's minister of foreign affairs and his accompanying delegation. The two sides discussed their economic and trade relations and the means to develop them in a manner to serve Iraq and Greece.

The two ministers reviewed the positive outcome of the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Greek committee for economic and technical cooperation and the possible participation of Greek companies in implementing the development projects in Iraq.

BRIEFS

OFFICIAL TO CUBA--Baghdad, 19 May--Naf' Matlub 'Abd ar-Razzaq, member of the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Iraqi Youth, left for Havana today for a visit which will last several days. During his visit, 'Abd ar-Razzaq will get acquainted with the preparations underway in the Cuban capital to organize the 11th World Youth and Student Festival which will be held there late in July 1978. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 19 May 78 JN]

KING HUSAYN WELCOMES FEDERATION WITH PALESTINIAN STATE

JN2011120Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that Jordan welcomes the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank linked with Jordan by a federation [ittihad], in view of the strong ties already existing between the two banks. In an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, his majesty added: Such a federation has been envisioned for several years. We believe that we are one family. The problem, however, is the rights of the Palestinians on Palestinian soil.

His Majesty King Husayn said: Israel should first withdraw from the West Bank. A referendum will then be held on self-determination. However, he expressed doubt that Israel will withdraw from the West Bank unless tremendous pressure is brought to bear upon it. His majesty added that he feels that the West Bank should be placed under international auspices until the Palestinians can exercise self-determination.

KING HUSAYN LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA 20 MAY

JN2015052 Amman JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 20 May--His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Saudi Arabia this afternoon on a 2-day visit during which he will hold talks with Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz the regent and senior Saudi officials on the latest Arab situation, issues of mutual concern and bilateral relations. His majesty is accompanied by Ash-sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and 'Amir Khammash, minister of court.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath as regent during his majesty's absence.

AR-RA'Y EXPECTS U.S. MOVES, ISRAELI SURPRISES

JN2207152 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 May 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Preparation for Surprises" the newspaper AR-RA'Y writes: Responsible U.S. sources are talking about President Carter's intention to move quickly for the resumption of peace talks in the area by reaching a practical and acceptable formula concerning the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The paper continues: It seems that Washington is still expecting the Begin government to reply to the questions it put to Israel on the future of the occupied Palestinian territory. However, the Begin government, seemingly, has not yet decided on a reply.

Naturally, U.S. expectations do not rule out Israeli surprises that might turn the situation topsy-turvy, as Israel did in the middle of March when it occupied southern Lebanon.

Concluding its editorial AR-RA'Y says: Undoubtedly His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with the Saudi regent and crown prince, aimed at making joint moves to thaw the ice between certain Arab countries, will consider the possibilities of Israel springing some of its surprises in the Arab arena. Thus, the paper hopes that the joint Jordanian-Saudi moves will make progress toward building an Arab security belt to confront Israeli surprises.

UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL GUYER ARRIVES IN BEIRUT

NC191450Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 19 May 78 NC

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General Roberto Guyer arrived in Beirut this afternoon with a message from Dr Kurt Waldheim for President Ilyas Sarkis connected with the position and task of the UN emergency forces in the south. It has been learned that Guyer will ask the Lebanese Government to clarify the Cairo and Riyadh agreements and that he will ask the Syrian authorities to restrain the Palestinian resistance north of the Litani line to enable the UN forces to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426.

Received by President Sarkis

NC200947Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 May 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis received UN Assistant Secretary General Roberto Guyer at 1000 today. The meeting was attended by General Siilasvuo, coordinator general of the UN emergency forces in the Middle East, and by General Erskine, commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. Guyer handed President Sarkis a letter from UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim. After the 1-hour meeting, Guyer said: I held very useful talks with President Sarkis, during which we dealt with several points. I believe that all the signs have been positive. He added that he had conveyed Dr Waldheim's views and ideas to President Sarkis. President Sarkis in turn gave his views on the subject.

Meets With Al-Huss, Butrus

NC201237Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 May 78 NC

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General Roberto Guyer called on Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at 1130 today. He was accompanied by Generals Siilasvuo and Erskine and (James Jona) and director of the UN information bureau in Beirut Sami Sanbar. Guyer conveyed a letter to Prime Minister al-Huss from Dr Waldheim connected with the task of the UN force.

After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss made a statement in which he said: I discussed with Guyer and his companions some points which he wanted clarified at the request of the UN secretary general. These points are connected with the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, to which we are fully committed. We believe that its implementation is the best available means to fully and successfully liberate the south from the Zionist occupation. This is everybody's demand.

The prime minister added: Our main concern now is to insure the speedy evacuation of the south. We assured Assistant Secretary General Guyer that we are fully prepared to provide everything we can to facilitate the effective and speedy implementation of the aforementioned resolution. This behooves all concerned quarters to facilitate the task of the UN forces and not to harm them and to help them prevent the entry of any armed elements, other than the internal security forces, into the areas which the UN forces take over from the invading Israeli forces, preparatory to handing them over to the legitimate authorities.

The prime minister further said: The UN forces came to Lebanon to help us secure the Israeli withdrawal and restore Lebanon's sovereignty in the south. Any attempt to obstruct these forces in the performance of their duties will not help to achieve this aim for which they have come and which is everybody's demand.

Guyer's visit is part of a series of contacts he is holding with the parties concerned to facilitate the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425.

At 1230 today, Guyer and his companions went to Bustrus Palace where they visited Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus. After the meeting, Guyer and Butrus made the following statements: [begin recording]

[Guyer--in French] I discussed the general situation with the president, with whom I also discussed the message which the secretary general has sent to the president.

[Indistinct question about the stand on Resolution 425]

[Answer] As you understand, I must first convey the reply which I have been given by the president to the secretary general. I am sorry. [end recording]

After Guyer, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus spoke to reporters. He said: [begin recording] Guyer conveyed a letter to his excellency the president. I have no right to disclose its contents to anybody.

[Question] What is Lebanon's answer to the UN questions about the situation?

[Answer] The letter is addressed to his excellency the president, who has answered it orally and explained the position which Lebanon must adopt on the questions raised. [end recording]

Leaves for Damascus

NC210920Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General Roberto Guyer left Beirut for Damascus on a special UN plane at 1000 today. General Siilasvuo, coordinator general of the UN forces in the Middle East, left on the same plane.

UNIFIL commander Major General Erskine went to Damascus yesterday.

In Damascus, Guyer will meet with high-ranking Syrian officials and with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

GENERAL ERSKINE COMMENTS ON MISSION OF UNIFIL

NC201310Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 May 78 NC

[Text] General Erskine, commander of the UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, said in a press statement that the task of these forces is to prevent the use of the area for aggressive action by any party and that they are a peacekeeping force, not an offensive force. Our method, he added, is to hold as many negotiations as possible. Anything else falls outside the nature of our task.

Erskine added: We have not been sent to fight anybody and we will only use force to defend ourselves, the mandate and positions. The use of force is not and will not be a part of the nature of the duties of our forces.

Concerning the Cairo Agreement, General Erskine said that it concerns the Lebanese Government and the PLO. He added that the UN peacekeeping force acts on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS MEETS WITH IRAQI AMBASSADOR

JN191452Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1336 GMT 19 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 19 May--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met this morning with Qasim as-Samawi, Iraqi ambassador to Lebanon. The discussion during this 45-minute meeting dealt with relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to improve them.

AS-SAFIR: LEBANON, PLO HOLD CONTACTS ON SHTAWRAH PACT IMPLEMENTATION

JN191451Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 19 May--Sources of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement have stated that contacts are currently underway between the Lebanese authorities and the Palestinian resistance to implement the third phase of the Shtawrah Agreement--the program implementing the Cairo Agreement regulating relations between the two sides. In reporting this, the Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR said that the meeting held day before yesterday between Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was for this purpose.

VOICE OF LEBANON: UN FORCES, PALESTINIANS CLASH

NC211146Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] Clashes have taken place between UN forces and Palestinian gunmen near the town of Jwayya in southern Lebanon. The clashes occurred after the UN forces arrested 12 Palestinians, who infiltrated behind the UN checkpoints around the town. There is no information yet on whether there are any casualties.

INA REPORTS ISRAELI ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES IN S. LEBANON

JN191632Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 19 May--Travelers from southern Lebanon today said that the Zionist occupation authorities there have issued a number of military decisions concerning the administration of the occupied Lebanese areas south of the Litani River. The travelers said that the enemy has appointed rightist Maj Sami Shidyaq as governor of the region extending from the An-Naqurah to Bint Jabayl in the central sector, as well as of the remaining region extending from Bint Jubayl to Al-Khiyam in the eastern sector. The enemy also replaced a number of village chiefs. The INA correspondent in the area said that one of the village chiefs replaced was that of Tayr Harfa, who was replaced by another chief called Salim Yusuf.

The occupation authorities today prevented relief trucks carrying food supplies from entering the village of Shama' and other nearby villages to distribute foodstuffs to the inhabitants. A Zionist patrol entered the suburb of the town of Tibnin in the central sector, which was previously under enemy occupation and later taken by the UN forces. The enemy patrol set up a roadblock at an entrance to the town, searched vehicles and pedestrians, then left when the UN forces intervened.

AL-BA'TH SCORES PROPOSED U.S. SOLUTIONS IN MIDEAST

LD191654Y Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 16 May 78 p 2 LD

[Majid Mu'awwad article: "In Whose Interest Is the U.S. Solution?"]

[Excerpts] It is understood from statements by U.S. officials that the United States has begun paving the way for a new stage in the plot against the Arab nation. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said that his government is now working to formulate proposals with a new basis and new concepts in order to give a momentum and activate the negotiations between As-Sadat and Israel. The U.S. Government is in constant contact with both sides in order to bring about a new specific formula for practical implementation of the plot.

U.S. President Carter's call for As-Sadat and Begin to hold a summit meeting in the White House is a step in this direction. The U.S. President, with the launching of this new stage of the plot, wants a greater harmony between As-Sadat and Begin in their declared positions. For example, he sees As-Sadat's stands, despite their defeatist and surrender nature, as still not as flexible as they are in private meetings. It appears that As-Sadat, because of his involvement in the plot and his placing all the cards in U.S. hands, has left the solution to the United States to do whatever it deems fit.

Despite all the U.S. hostility to the Arabs, As-Sadat, in order to prove his total obedience to U.S. orders, has been anxious to achieve the U.S. desire expressed by President Carter. He submitted a proposal to Israel in which he declared his total rejection of the PLO and the independent Palestinian state. In a statement to an American newspaper he declared his readiness to sign a unilateral agreement with Israel. Thus he has abandoned the "hardline" stand as seen by the United States and has adapted his attitude toward a settlement to that of Israel. Thus, also, the road to imposing the U.S.-Israeli settlement has now become open.

As As-Sadat is anxious to please the United States and Israel, the latter, with U.S. support and encouragement, has declared its adherence to its aggressive and expansionist policy and its refusal to witndraw from the occupied Arab territories. Begin has said that any demand for withdrawal from the Arab territories and for a return to the 1967 borders is unacceptable. Israel cannot withdraw and, at the same time, continue to expand at the expense of Arab territories. On the other hand, Israel's former chief of staff, Gur, has denied that Israel violated an agreement with the United States when it used cluster bombs in the attack on southern Lebanon. He said that Israel will withdraw from Lebanon at a date it will fix. This means that the United States had knowledge of the aggression against southern Lebanon and that cluster bombs were used with its knowledge. Therefore, is it logical that, in the light of this U.S. attitude, which is so hostile to the Arabs and biased in favor of Israel, U.S. efforts for settlement could be sincere? Is it logical that, the U.S. attitude being thus, the Arabs should count on it to achieve a settlement, and thus indirectly support As-Sadat?

In fact, the solution, in the well-known American way, will be entirely in favor of Israel, and the Arabs will reap nothing from it except harm and frustration.

U.S. ARMS AID TO ISRAEL HAMPERS PEACE IN MIDEAST

JN201630Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The current Middle East crisis is considered an urgent international issue, if not the most urgent one, because despite all efforts in the past to achieve a political solution leading to a just and lasting peace, the situation in the area today is no less grave and explosive than it was in the past.

Any explosion in the Middle East will automatically pose a real danger to world peace and security in view of the strategic and political importance of this area and the fact that its land contains rich oil resources on which the industry, and in fact daily life, on many Western countries depends.

What has kept the situation in the area so grave is Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories and its disavowal of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, with all the greed and designs lurking behind this Israeli stand. As long as Israel continues to disavow the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and to refuse to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, the danger of an explosion and the renewal of hostilities will continue to exist and may even increase further.

Therefore, the usefulness of any action or step to the cause of peace in the Middle East is measured by the extent of its contribution to achieving Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories and to enabling the Palestinian Arab people to exercise their national rights.

In light of this, it can be said, for instance, that the freezing of the UN role in the search for a solution was not in the interests of peace and of defusing the powder keg in the area. The U.S. supply of billions of dollars worth of sophisticated weapons to Israel has not been in the interests of peace.

Also in light of this, it can be said that the Carter administration's supplying of 90 sophisticated F-15 and F-16 aircraft to Israel under the tripartite deal, with a promise to provide it with 20--and later 50--more planes does not serve the efforts to establish a just and lasting peace in the area.

Any military, economic or political aid given to Israel under the circumstances prevailing in the area does not serve peace, but encourages the Israeli occupiers to continue to flout the UN resolutions and charter, occupy Arab territories and prevent the Palestinian Arab people from exercising their national rights.

The gravest danger of peace in the future is making concessions to the occupiers. Any solution based on conceding the two conditions for a just and lasting peace--complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people--will be a mine under the road to peace. Therefore, anyone concerned about peace in the Middle East must not request concessions for the occupiers who have flouted the international community.

Syria, whose leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, has declared that a just and lasting peace is its basic aim, will continue to work and fight for this goal. Syria wants a truly just and lasting peace. It rejects any solution based on granting concessions to the Israeli occupiers and refuses to participate in any efforts which ignore or detract from the two basic conditions for peace. Syria rejects this on the international as well as on the Arab level.

This Syrian policy is firm and unchangeable. It does not vary with any change in the direction of the winds or succumb to any outside influences. It is also not affected by any economic, political or even military pressure.

Syria is ready at all times to cooperate with any real efforts to solve the Middle East crisis on the basis of complete withdrawal and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their rights. It is convinced that its steadfastness against the conspiracy of imposing a surrender, and its opposition to attempts to force the Arabs to open their doors to the Israeli and imperialist cultural, economic, social and tourist invasion, are for the sake of peace. It is also convinced that its earnest efforts to establish a strategic balance with the Zionist enemy deprive the enemy of the initiative to use or threaten to use force.

ATH-THAWRAH COMMENTS ON 'INVASION' OF ZAIRE

JN211005Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 21 May--In its column "Spotlights on Events", the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH today stresses that the European invasion of Zaire is aimed at getting the raw materials in Shaba and not at rescuing the poor Europeans there. The paper wonders why Western Europe and the United States refuse to allow revolutionaries in Zaire to settle their accounts with the suppressive and exploiting Mobutu regime, no matter what the cost. It is certain that the United States considers Zaire a strategic center not only to suppress liberation movements in central and southern Africa but to spearhead action against countries which have recently become independent, such as Angola and Mozambique.

The United States also considers Zaire as a base to help control the governments to be set up after the victory of the majority rule in the white racist countries. In addition, Zaire is a country full of riches.

The paper concludes its editorial: With the escalation of the struggle for oil, Europe has realized its limited power, how weak it is and how much its life is linked to its capability to obtain raw materials. Thus, we realize the objectives behind the invasion of Zaire, a country rich in minerals, forests and water. We realize that the question is not of saving some poor frightened whites but of reaching these treasures and insuring the continuation of their exploitation.

MINISTER OF STATE ADDRESSES NONALINED MEETING

JN211415Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1305 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for foreign affairs, delivered the Syrian address to the ministerial meeting of the nonalined countries coordination bureau and spoke about the Palestinian issue and the Middle East question.

He drew the attention of the conferees to Israel's intransigence, both in policy and practice, and said: Israel is no longer content with its refusal to implement UN resolutions but now interprets them in a manner which furthers its expansionist and aggressive ambitions. Israel has also become a citadel fully armed with the most modern weapons, a matter which, with U.S. support, exposes the region to an explosion and jeopardizes international peace and security.

'Adi stressed that Israel is delaying its withdrawal from southern Lebanon and attempting to thwart UNIFIL's mission. He then talked about developments which have affected the whole struggle in the Middle East in the aftermath of As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem. He said: This visit was a violation of Arab unanimity and Arab will, as well as a blow to Arab solidarity. The visit also strengthened the backbone of Israel's aggression and its ambitions to expand and deny the Palestinian Arab people their rights.

Furthermore, the visit opened the door to the liquidationist attempts and the capitulationist plans pioneered by the United States to serve its interests and support the Zionist entity.

'Adi then affirmed that any attempt or initiative designed to weaken the struggle for the implementation of the principles and decisions of the nonalined movement will be considered a violation of the movement's determination to end the occupation and restore the Palestinian Arab people's rights. Such an attempt or initiative is also a deviation from the communal spirit required by the struggle for the realization of these aims.

He further stressed that Syria is exerting maximum efforts to provide suitable conditions for the restoration of the spirit of communal struggle, so that it may stand fast in the face of Israeli challenges and Israel's insistence on its continued occupation, expansion, and denial of Palestinian rights.

SYRIA OBJECTS TO ABROGATION OF CAIRO AGREEMENT

JN201025Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 20 May--Syria has informed Lebanon of its objection to the abrogation of the Cairo Agreement concluded in 1969 between the Lebanese Government and the PLO.

In a report from Beirut citing political sources there, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' says that the Syrian position falls within the framework of current contacts and consultations to prepare the agenda for the forthcoming bilateral summit between Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The paper points out that the application of the Cairo Agreement will be one of the major topics to be discussed by the Lebanese and Syrian presidents. Other topics include the idea of sending joint Syrian-Lebanese units to southern Lebanon to take up positions alongside the UN forces to assist them in applying the Cairo Agreement.

This, the paper adds, would require close military coordination between the two countries. The paper notes that this cooperation might take the form of a security treaty. The Lebanese Government, however, has previously shown reservations about this matter.

BA'TH LEADER VISITS ELF OFFICE IN DAMASCUS, PROMISES AID

JN201315Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, National Command member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and head of the Foreign Relations Bureau, accompanied by the comrade directors of the bureau and several members of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the National Command, visited the offices of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] in Damascus this morning and met with a number of officials. They briefed Comrade Sayyagh on the latest developments in Eritrea and the firm opposition by the Eritrean revolutionaries to the current offensive of the aggressive Ethiopian forces, aimed against the Eritrean people and revolution.

Comrade Dr Sayyagh was also briefed on the urgent needs demanded by the fight and made necessary by the current circumstances in order to support the fighters. Part of the meeting was attended by the director of the Eritrean news agency.

Comrade Dr Sayyagh expressed the principled and firm stand of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Syrian Arab people under the leadership of the struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic, in offering continuous and constant support for the Eritrean revolution until complete independence is achieved. He also promised to convey what he heard to the leadership of the party, which will offer needed help and urgent aid to the Eritrean revolution.

Comrade Sayyagh praised the steadfastness of the fighters and their high spirits in repulsing the fierce offensive against the Eritrean people. The Eritrean brothers expressed their thanks and gratitude for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its revolutionary government in Syria under the leadership of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad for their unlimited stand in support of the Eritrean revolution to help achieve victory and complete independence.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM RECEIVES UN'S GUYER

JN211315Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 May 78 JN

[Text] At 1030 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister, received Roberto Guyer, UN assistant secretary general. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister, and by Brig Gen 'Adnan Tayyarah, the head of the Syrian side to the UNDOF. The meeting was attended on the UN side by General Siilasvuo, coordinator general of the UN forces in the Middle East, and by (James Jona), political adviser for the UN secretary general.

Guyer and the members of his delegation arrived in Damascus from Beirut this morning.

During the meeting, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received a message from Guyer addressed to President Hafiz al-Asad from UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim.

The talks during the meeting revolved around the situation in southern Lebanon. Guyer acquainted Khaddam with UNIFIL activities and tasks as well as with the obstacles impeding UNIFIL from implementing its tasks. Guyer asserted that the principal and urgent objective is to fix a firm date for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He said that UNIFIL's mission now is to establish this date. He added that the basic objective of UN Security Council Resolution 425 is to achieve complete Israeli withdrawal from the south and to restore legitimate Lebanese authority.

The Syrian side stressed the need for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 245 [presumably 425] which provides for Israel's withdrawal and not leaving matters unsettled, as this would allow Israel to continue its procrastination and occupation. Therefore, it is imperative to fix a firm date for the withdrawal as soon as possible.

The viewpoints of the two sides were identical. They stressed the need to fix a firm date for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and for the restoration of legitimate Lebanese authority in the south.

Guyer and the accompanying delegation are due to leave Damascus today.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B SCORES 'IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION' IN ZAIRE

LD191102Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 15 May 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] According to reports received from Zaire and neighboring capitals, the fierce fighting currently taking place in Shaba Province between rebels and the forces of the Mobutu regime backed by Moroccan and French units appears to indicate the large-scale resurgence of the powerful uprising which took place in the province a year ago, which was suppressed only after Moroccan forces and the French Air Force intervened.

According to preliminary reports, and on the basis of the statement issued by the Congolese National Liberation Front issued in Brussels last night, the following facts emerge from the present situation:

1. There is wide support for the rebels in Shaba Province, support which the Zairian official news agency confirmed, but to which it tried to give a tribal color. Such support gives the uprising a national dimension in that it is an expression of an African people who have grown tired of living in bonds and shackles.

2. The new explosion of the situation is a natural result of the guerrilla warfare that the rebels continued to wage following the failure of their first uprising last year. It is to be noted here that matters have developed in the interest of the rebels, in that the Kinshasa regime has been increasingly isolated domestically following the physical liquidation of senior army officers and the suppression of the inhabitants of Shaba Province as a "disciplinary measure" because of their support for the rebels. This is in addition to the deterioration of social and economic conditions in the country.

3. The Mobutu regime failed to exploit its "military victory" last year to rectify the mistakes whose accumulation has led to the uprising in Shaba, nor to alter his policy to make it serve the domestic and international interests of his people.

4. A fifth fact [as published] is that revolutions never die nor can they be crushed. Rebels who fought the forces of the imperialist and reactionary alliance in Shaba Province for 80 days did not surrender in the face of a militarily superior enemy. They went underground to readjust the confrontation to the requirements of the situation until they emerged as a force in the arena.

It should be noted that President Mobutu, on the instructions of the powers of the axis to which he belongs, hastened to accuse Algeria, along with other countries, of conniving with the rebels, alleging that the "attack plan as an idea was devised in Havana and set in motion in Algeria, which has trained commandos of the former Katanga gendarmes."

Such an accusation is undoubtedly not surprising, coming from a regime that has been unable to face reality or to face the results of its domestic policy, and as long as the one who dictated it to Mobutu wants to distort Algeria's revolutionary stands in the hope of browbeating it into turning a blind eye to colonialist intervention in the continent and disengaging itself from the Saharan problem.

Therefore, we can only assume that it is correct to say that blaming the Shaba events on foreign countries which are bastions of freedom and struggle in Africa and the whole world is part of an imperialist-colonialist plan to disrupt the unity of the continent, to sow dissension among its sons, to prepare the atmosphere once again for an imperialist intervention in the area, to cover up the French aggression against the peoples of Chad, Mauritania and Western Sahara and to enable the reactionary forces, led by Morocco, to test the latest weapons received from Western factories.

There is no doubt that Paris will intervene militarily in Zaire, not to protect the Mobutu regime, but on the pretext of protecting its colonialist interests there, to continue plundering the Zairian people's wealth of zinc, copper, cobalt, gold and diamonds and to maintain Zaire as a strategic bastion in the policy of containing progressive regimes in the continent and striking at the liberation and unionist trends.

What is happening in Shaba Province is an internal matter concerning the Zairian people, who are capable of solving it. Therefore, any foreign intervention will only further complicate the situation and aggravate the miseries of the Zairian people. The situation therefore calls for respecting the will of the Zairian people, something which the Elysee is accustomed to disregard, preferring instead the policy of the Jaguar and the Transall [military transport plane].

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS BELGIAN OVERFLIGHTS

NC211202Y Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 21 May 78 NC

[Text] Brussels, May 21 (AFP)--Algeria has protested at Belgian mercy planes ferrying European refugees from Kinshasa to Brussels overflying its territory, Foreign Minister Henri Simonet said here today. Mr Simonet, in a televised broadcast, said that the Belgian planes, instead of flying over Algeria, would instead take a route over the Canary Islands. This would add a further three hours to the flight. He said that he intended to protest to the Algerian ambassador here.

Algeria told Belgium that all aircraft on the Kinshasa-Brussels airlift must land in Algiers so that a search could be made to see there were no troops on board planes. The pilot of the first Belgian Sabena plane flew over Algeria without stopping, but the second plane landed as there was a sick person on board.

FRG SOCIAL DEMOCRAT CHAIRMAN BRANDT ARRIVES IN ALGIERS

LD191953Y Hamburg DPA in German 1859 GMT 19 May 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--SPD [Social Democratic Party of Germany] Chairman Willy Brandt arrived in Algiers on Friday evening at the invitation of Houari Boumediene, the Algerian head of state and chairman of the Revolution Council. Apart from German-Algerian questions and the relations between the Algerian "National Liberation Front" (FLN) and the SPD, discussions will focus on the North-South dialog. Algeria played a decisive role in this regard at the special UN General Assembly session in 1974, and Layachi Yaker, vice president of the National Assembly, is a member of the independent commission on international development questions headed by Brandt.

In the forefront of the talks on German-Algerian relations will be questions of economic cooperation. The international fight against terrorism, to which both countries subscribe, will also be discussed. In the sphere of party contacts, Algeria has expressed interest in the development of relations with the SPD, and will be informed by Brandt about the bureau meeting of the Socialist International in Dakar last week.

The SPD chairman, whom Boumediene had picked up by special plane from Bamako, the capital of Mali, where the independent commission had met, is particularly anxious to know Algeria's attitude toward the Middle East conflict, the Mediterranean countries and the situation in Africa, including the Western Sahara problem. Brandt will return to Bonn Sunday evening.

Brandt, Boumediene Hold Talks

LD211404Y Hamburg DPA in German 1223 GMT 21 May 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--Algeria takes a very critical view of the situation in Africa. Against the background of events in Zaire, Algerian head of state Houari Boumediene expressed his concern at the interventions in a talk with SPD Chairman Willy Brandt in Algiers that lasted more than 3 hours. It is reported that the criticism was leveled in particular at France, but also included Cuba's further actions after the intervention in Angola and the Soviet Union's conduct in the Horn of Africa.

The SPD chairman today ended 3 days of talks with the state and party leadership in Algiers. He went to Algiers at Boumediene's invitation after chairing a meeting of the independent commission on development questions in Bamako, the capital of Mali. Regarding the North-South problem, Boumediene recommends that the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe be included in the dialog, as the Brandt commission advocates, because the Eastern bloc belongs on the side of the industrial states. During the talk, which was described as open, Boumediene explained his skeptical attitude toward the policy of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. It is stated that Algeria does not expect too much from a go-it-alone policy by Egypt with unilateral dependence on the USA. Also stressed in Algiers was a policy of nonalinement, and it was pointed out that, although Soviet military aid is being received, economically the greatest involvement is with the United States.

Algeria takes a positive view of the economic development of relations with the Federal Republic, but sees a need to catch up in the political field. In the talks with Brandt the Algerians appeared to be very interested in an expansion of cooperation with the EEC and in particular with the Federal Republic.

Brandt Comments on Talks

LD212058Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 21 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Willy Brandt, head of the West German Social Democratic Party and former chancellor, left Algiers this afternoon following a 2-day visit at the invitation of President Houari Boumediene. This visit was an opportunity for Willy Brandt, who is also president of the Socialist International and president of the independent international commission for North-South economic development, to have talks with President Boumediene, the speaker of the People's National Assembly and the executive officials in charge of the party apparatus. The discussions were principally concerned with relations between Algeria and the Federal German Republic, the new world economic order, and the situation in the Mediterranean, Africa and the Middle East.

These, moreover, were the topics raised by Willy Brandt at the press conference he gave shortly before his departure at the villa [name indistinct], in the presence of Layachi Yaker, deputy speaker of the National People's Assembly and (Suleyman Osman), head of the international relations commission of the party. Here is part of the press conference.

In the press conference he gave before leaving Algiers, Willy Brandt first talked of the links of cooperation between Algeria and the FRG and the possibility of strengthening this cooperation in light of the talks he has just had in Algiers with President Boumediene and Algerian leaders. [begin recording]

[Brandt--in German with superimposed French translation] We had very detailed talks yesterday with the president of the republic, with his advisers yesterday morning and also this morning. We were able to discuss the ways in which we must strengthen the relations between the FLN and Social Democratic Party of Germany.

Representatives of the FLN will be welcome in the FRG. There are several parties with different experience, which work in different conditions. [Words indistinct] many common points and a great deal of common interest. I think there should be great cooperation between these two parties in the interests of relations and [words indistinct]. Good economic relations exist between the two countries, between Algeria and the FRG. There is room for further development of economic relations.

When I met the speaker of the People's National Assembly, he expressed the desire to have an exchange of members of parliament. This is also a field in which we should make exchanges. When we held discussions with the representatives of the FLN, we also noted that there were possibilities for the exchange of executives, technicians and experiences in the joint interest of the two parties.

I was particularly (?interested) [words indistinct] nonalinement. This nonalinement is linked with a cooperation with other countries of the world. I also noted how the leadership of the country is interested in Africa. There, too, it is interesting to note [words indistinct]. I was very interested to learn Algeria's point of view on the problems of the Mediterranean and the Middle East, as well as the development [words indistinct] in the rest of Africa.

I agree with President Boumediene when he says that any foreign intervention in Africa, whatever its source, must cease. [end recording]

SUDAN

KHARTOUM: U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL RECEIVED BY NUMAYRI

JN201524Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May--The U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs met today with President Ja'far Numayri. The U.S. official stressed that U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance are interested in maintaining the stable situation in Sudan. The meeting also dealt with President Numayri's role as chairman of the coming OAU session. The U.S. official noted the interest of the United States in the role Sudan is playing in the current situation. He also stressed that his government is interested in Sudan's development plans and in strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

Meets With Vice President

JN201526Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, vice president and foreign minister, today received the U.S. deputy assistant secretaries of state for African affairs and economic affairs.

He discussed with them the current situation on the African Continent in light of the latest events in the Horn of Africa and in Shaba Province in Zaire. At-Tahir briefed the two U.S. officials on Sudan's views regarding the situation in Africa. He stressed the need to exert efforts to overcome these problems.

The meeting also dealt with bilateral relations in the economic and investment fields in light of At-Tahir's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Khartoum in April.

The current visit to Sudan by the U.S. delegation is within a tour the delegation is making of a number of East African countries.

PLANNING MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH USAID DELEGATION

JN201346Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May--Nasr ad-Din Mustafa, minister of planning, today discussed with a delegation of the U.S. Agency for International Development the U.S. aid program and the extent of the U.S. contribution to the development program in Sudan. The U.S. delegation expressed its country's readiness to increase this support. The meeting was attended by Donald Bergus, U.S. ambassador in Khartoum, and Mr Pearson, USAID representative in Sudan.

VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR

JN201421Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 20 May 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May--It was learned here today that Vice President ar-Rashid at-Tahir received the Soviet ambassador in Khartoum. They discussed bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East, current African issues--particularly the situation in Eritrea, Ogaden and Chad--and the latest events in the Shaba Province of Zaire.

WESTERN SAHARA

DEFENSE MINISTER GIVES MOROCCAN, MAURITANIAN COMBAT LOSSES

LD201726Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 20 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] The Saharan people are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the beginning of armed struggle today. On the eve of this historic event, the Saharan minister of defense has issued a communique summing up military operations since November 1977. Between that time and the present the Saharan combatants have caused the following losses among Moroccan and Mauritanian ranks: 4,283 killed, 3,057 wounded and 200 taken prisoner. A considerable quantity of war equipment has been destroyed, including two Jaguar aircraft, an (?H-5) plane [word indistinct] and three helicopters. Four Jaguars have been [word indistinct] heavily damaged.

CABINET ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON AIRCRAFT DEAL

TA211437Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 May 78 TA

[Text] The cabinet discussed today the decision of the U.S. Senate to supply planes to Egypt and to Saudi Arabia and expressed its concern that this constituted a danger to Israel's security. The cabinet says in its communique that cabinet members voiced apprehension that the three-fold deal will bring about a breach in the Middle East balance of power and additional intransigence in the position of the Arab countries, a position described by the cabinet as tough and uncompromising. The ministers pointed out that there had been an unconditional commitment by the President of the United States to supply Israel with F-16's.

Our political correspondent points out that the cabinet did not discuss the questions presented to Israel by the United States regarding the future of Judaea and Samaria after the 5 years of autonomy, if the autonomy plan is indeed instituted. The discussion on this subject will take place at a later session. Our correspondent says that Egypt has not submitted a peace plan of its own, as had been expected in Israel following talks with U.S. administration officials.

The cabinet decided today that the IDF would complete the withdrawal of its forces from southern Lebanon by 13 June. The defense minister and the chief of staff have been authorized to discuss the matter with representatives of UN forces in the Middle East, as well as to take steps to insure security on the northern border. The cabinet also heard a report on yesterday's terrorist attack at Orly airport.

MA'ARIV COMMENTS ON GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR ORLY ATTACK

TA211644Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 May 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Oded Granot]

[Text] Elements in Israel think that behind the name "Organization of Sons of Southern Lebanon" which has claimed responsibility for the attack at Orly, the "Abu Nidal" organization is concealed and it may be that it cooperated with the George Habash Popular Front.

This would not be the first time that PLO organizations have used false names, particularly when the reference is to actions of terrorism and attacks in countries with whom the PLO has no quarrel.

It was terrorists from the George Habash Popular Front who carried out the two attacks on an El Al plane at Orly airport in January 1975 and then they called themselves "Muhummad Boudi'a's Commandos."

In the observers' views, the attack at Orly airport proves that the death of the terrorist commander Haddad, who headed the greatest terror actions of the terrorist organizations abroad, has not affected the continuation of this sort of action. In announcements by the "Sons of Southern Lebanon" it is stated that the action was carried out in reaction to Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon.

OUSTING OF PLO OBSERVERS FROM UN GROUP TO BE SOUGHT

TA211717Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Yehi'el Limor]

[Text] Israel will submit an official complaint, apparently today, to the International Flight Organization--which is a UN organization--over the attack on the El Al plane by terrorists at Orly airport in Paris.

In the complaint to be submitted, Israel apparently will demand vigorously that action be taken to expel the PLO representatives from the organization. The PLO has observer status in this organization, as in other UN agencies.

Israel will point out the unbearable situation: While PLO representatives are acting as observers in the International Flight Organization, its terrorists are attacking civil planes in airports and harming innocent passengers.

TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM S. LEBANON IN 3-4 WEEKS

TA201952Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 20 May 78 TA

[Text] The defense authorities have decided that the IDF will withdraw totally from southern Lebanon in approximately 3 to 4 weeks if the UN force in southern Lebanon has finished the deployment of its forces and has fulfilled its mission up to then. Our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir has learned this.

The defense authorities' recommendation will probably be brought before the government for approval tomorrow.

WEST BANK NOTABLES ASK PLO TO RELEASE IDF PRISONER

TA211838Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 May 78 TA

[Text] A petition signed by 117 Arab notables from Judaea, Samaria, Jerusalem and Gaza says that they are convinced that the IDF man held captive by the PLO, Avraham 'Amram, should be set free and not made to stand a trial. The signatures were collected by the Committee for the Sanctity of Israel, which intends to submit the petition to the Human Rights Committee and to the Red Cross.

The Arab notables say that the problem of Avraham 'Amram is not political, but a matter of conscience, since he is a father of four children. For this reason they request that he not be brought to trail but be released and returned home. They also request that the bodies of the four dead soldiers be returned so they can receive a Jewish burial in Israel.

GOOD FENCE STATION TO BE MOVED EAST OF METULLAH

TA211430Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 May 78 p 12 TA

[By Menahem Rahat]

[Text] In the area east of Metullah and north of Moshav Kefar Yuval, extensive ground preparations were completed at week's end for a new station of the good fence, instead of the one in Metullah that will be closed when the new station becomes operational.

Today a beginning was made on erecting buildings on the prepared territory, which will serve as military government offices, a clinic and so on. The new station will be put into operation as soon as the groundwork is completed--at the beginning of next month.

Work on establishing the new good fence station is being done by the engineering corps at the request of the inhabitants of Metullah, who claim that the heavy traffic at the existing station is damaging the orchards and the town's roads because there are no approach roads to the station except those passing through the town.

The new good fence station will be 5 km east of Metullah.

JERUSALEM COMMENTS ON U.S. STAND ON NEGOTIATIONS

TA181945Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 May 78 TA

[Text] Political circles in Jerusalem assess that the United States thinks that the initiative for the continuation of the political negotiations between Israel and Egypt should now come from the Egyptians. Our political correspondent, Elimelekh Ram, says that, according to these circles, the Americans do not at this stage of the negotiations expect further Israeli proposals before the Egyptians present proposals of their own.

This evaluation follows the prime minister's meeting last night with the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis. Ambassador Lewis brought a message to the prime minister yesterday from President Carter emphasizing the continuation of the U.S. commitment to Israel's security. Our political correspondent also said that the possibility cannot be dismissed that counterproposals to the Israeli proposals are now being prepared in Egypt.

ISRAEL TO REPLY TO U.S. AFTER EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS

TA211600Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] Only after a reply arrives from Egypt, Jerusalem says, will there be any point in the cabinet discussing the answers Israel has promised the United States with regard to the autonomy program.

EGYPT HINTS AT POSSIBLE DIRECT APPROACH

TA191318Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Text] Recently Egypt quite openly hinted to Israel that within a few days it might transmit to Jerusalem proposals regarding the future of the West Bank and of the Gaza Strip. The contacts are to be maintained via the Israeli delegation in Alexandria. It is not clear whether the Egyptians will submit verbal suggestions or whether they will be in writing.

According to the Egyptian hints, the proposal will be in the spirit of what was recently suggested by President Anwar as-Sadat in public; namely, that for an interim 5-year period Israel hand over the Gaza Strip to Egypt and the West Bank to Jordan. At the end of 5 years, the future of those regions will be decided in negotiations with the participation of the Palestinians.

Until recently the Egyptians did not respond to Israeli and U.S. requests to present written counterproposals to the Israeli peace plan. The Americans also refused to exert pressure on Egypt on this point, so as not to receive an intransigent reply that would hinder possible progress in the negotiations. Likewise, Egypt's president, Anwar as-Sadat, has not yet answered a letter that Prime Minister Menahem Begin sent to him several weeks ago.

Should any Egyptian proposals indeed arrive within the next few days, then even if they are unacceptable to Israel, they will facilitate a renewal of direct contacts between Israel and Egypt. Authoritative political sources in Jerusalem believe it will then be possible to renew the political talks between Israel and Egypt, and Israel prefers that this process be reopened in an additional meeting between President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Alternately, Jerusalem thinks that the renewed contacts could be held on the foreign ministerial level.

HA'AREZ COMMENTS ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT

TA191610Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 19 May 78 p 13 TA

[Poles commentary]

[Excerpts] There are numerous indications that it is not solely the Egyptian leader who has the copyright for As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. The renowned initiative deserves, perhaps, to be called the "Begin-Dayan initiative" as much as the "As-Sadat initiative," without detracting from the role of Romania's president, Nicolae Ceausescu.

However, if this assumption is correct, then doubts come to mind whether the Israeli thinking behind that cabinet activity was justified. The prime minister and the foreign minister believed, apparently, that the promise to reinstate Egyptian sovereignty over the entire Sinai peninsula would suffice to reach a separate peace with Cairo--and this on the assumption that the issue of Palestinian Arabs in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip is not that close to the heart of the Egyptians, despite assurances made in their public statements.

That assumption proved to have been incorrect. But, if President as-Sadat thought that he would succeed in persuading the Government of Israel to add to its concessions in Sinai a not less far-reaching concession in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, then he was also mistaken. The only concession Mr Begin was ready for could be summed up in the formula: "Everything is open for negotitations."

Once it became clear that the Egyptian leader would not make do with that, Mr Begin broached his autonomy plan, hoping that this would make it easier for As-Sadat to be the first signatory on a peace treaty with us. To allay Egyptian misgivings regarding the profitability of the deal, he went one step further and added to the Israeli peace-plan the paragraph which mentions the possibility of reassessment after 5 years. This, however, was--and remains--the limit of the prime minister's willingness for concessions.

The two tendencies--that of Israel, which seeks to keep the "territories," and that of Egypt, which demands a total Israeli withdrawal and a right for self-determination to the Palestinians--have been at conflict for more than 4 months. The only conciliatory step that As-Sadat made--the "Aswan formula," which limits the second of the said demands to a right of the Palestinians "to participate in deciding their future"--was unacceptable to the Government of Israel, since that formula also mentions the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian nation" and the necessity to solve "all aspects" of the Palestinian problem. In such formulations is contained, in the view of the Israeli Cabinet, the "embryo" of an independent Arab-Palestinian state. On top of that, during his visit in Washington, As-Sadat reiterated his original demand for a self-determination without reservations.

If the report is true that Egypt is unwilling to respond to Mr Dayan's proposal before Israel answers the two questions asked by the United States--what kind of arrangement, in general lines, has Israel in mind for the territories at the end of the 5 years, and what does it intend to propose instead of the national referendum?--it would appear that for 4 months we have been running around in circles and that the situation after 6 months is actually the same as it was after the meeting in Ismailia.

The U.S. leadership agrees, apparently, that a "third" state does not constitute a solution. It promises it won't regard the PLO as a part to the negotiations so long as that organization refuses to recognize Israel's right to existence and accept Security Council Resolution 242. It also admits that Israel does have a right for some kind of a military presence in the West Bank, even beyond the limit of the 5-year period, without stipulating now when that presence should end.

However, that leadership is unwilling to agree to the autonomy plan, unless it is understood that this plan is introduced as only a temporary solution and that an alternative arrangement replacing it at the time of its expiry be promised now. The United States is unwilling to forfeit at least some kind of an arrangement that would assure the Arabs in the territories the right to participate in deciding the nature of the final settlement, even though it does not insist on a national referendum.

The prime minister tends to treat diplomatic negotiations as if they were legal process, and on top of that he relies not only on the justness of his/our positions, but also on our own ability to stand up to any challenge, as well as that same ability of our allies among the U.S. public--Jews or gentiles alike. But, the first component of his position is altogether erroneous. As for the second component, recent experience--the "aircraft package-deal" affair--should make us aware that his confidence may be exaggerated.

I'd suggest that the cabinet should not be delaying its answer to the U.S. questions but should reply to them in a manner that would be accepted in Washington as a sign of goodwill. Even if Begin and Dayan may have erred in evaluating the prospects opening for us with As-Sadat's visit in Jerusalem, to a point that engendered a promise from us of an absolute concession in Sinai--the power ratio between us and the Arabs has changed to such an extent that Israeli policy can no longer be conducted in such a way as if we were counting this as year 11, anno 6-day war.

JUDAEA, SAMARIA LAND TO BE ALLOCATED TO GUSH EMUNIM

TA220728Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 May 78 TA

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori has ordered that checks be made on how to concentrate land around several Gush Emunim settlements in Judaea and Samaria. This land would be given to the settlements for development purposes. The deputy minister visited several settlements in the area at the end of last week, accompanied by the commander of the central command, general staff officers from the Judaea and Samaria command and two of the Gush Emunim leaders. Hanan Porat, one of the Gush Emunim leaders, said that there is an urgent need to take over additional land around Elon More, Shomron, Ofra, Mesha and Giv'on. Gush Emunim is demanding an addition of 500 to 1,000 dunams for each settlement.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the Gush Emunim leaders have prepared a memorandum on the land situation in Judaea and Samaria, with the help of a senior official of the Israel Land Authority and several officials from the military government. According to the memo, 80 to 90 percent of the land around the settlement is stony land owned by the government or land which has been sequestered. Our correspondent points out that it is believed in the Defense Ministry and the settlement bodies that it will be impossible to avoid taking over large areas in Judaea and Samaria in order to continue development of the settlements established there over the last year. It has been decided to add 100 families in Elon More and Qaddum and this requires taking over additional land around the settlement.

EXPROPRIATION OF WEST BANK LAND REPORTED

TA191124Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 19 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpt] The local council chairman of Haris, southwest of Nabulus, 'Abd al-Jalil Salih, recently sent a telegram to the Nabulus military governor in which he complains strongly about the expropriation of 10,000 dunums of land from his village. According to security establishment sources, about 1,000 dunums of land of that village have been expropriated for a nearby Israeli settlement that is called by the same name--Haris. The expropriated land, the report says, has been fenced in and ground-breaking operations have begun. According to the Defense Ministry's new plan, a large urban center is to be constructed in Haris for 14,000 families.

REPORT ON IRANIAN AID CUT FOR PAKISTAN DENIED

BK211531Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT 21 May 78 BK

[Excerpt] Islamabad, May 21 (AFP)--The Iranian Government has denied a BBC report which said Iran had threatened to stop aid to Pakistan if the death sentence on former prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was carried out, ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) news agency reported today.

The BBC report, broadcast on Friday, said the threat was made by Iranian Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar in comments to Western correspondents in Teheran.

Karachi Radio Report

BK211528Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 May 78 BK

[Text] The Iranian ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Fereydun Zandfard, called on the foreign secretary, Mr S. Shah Nawaz, in Islamabad today and informed him that he has been authorized to say that the statement attributed to the Iranian prime minister by the BBC was incorrect.

The BBC report, which was also published in the Pakistani press, had attributed a statement to the Iranian prime minister which caused dismay in Pakistan, and the Foreign Ministry had expressed deep concern to the Iranian government at the official level and asked for clarification on the matter.

The Iranian ambassador met with the foreign secretary today in this connection.

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT GIVEN RECEPTION BY PRINCESS ASHRAF

LD211136Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0500 GMT 21 May 78 LD

[Excerpt] Her Royal Highness Princess Ashraf Pahlavi gave a luncheon reception today at Sadabad palace in honor of DPRK Vice President Kang Yang-uk. Heading a 20-man delegation, the DPRK vice president arrived in Teheran yesterday on a 4-day visit.

Princess Ashraf visited the DPRK 2 years ago at the invitation of Marshal Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD212226Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 21 May 78 LD

[Text] The vice president of the DPRK, who is visiting our country, today met and held talks with Jamshid Amuzegar, the prime minister. The DPRK vice president arrived in Teheran yesterday.

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION--The NOIC announced today that during March, oil extracted from Naft-e Shah oilfield reached 473,100 barrels which is equivalent to 75,217 cubic meters. The total of oil exports during the same period was 462,146 barrels and the amount of oil stored in reserves was 2,800 barrels. Similarly, 72,718 cubic meters of crude oil was refined during the period of 20 March to 20 April in the Kermanshah oil refinery and the delivery of crude oil to this refinery during the same month was 14,842 barrels per day. [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1300 GMT 17 May 78 LD]

AFGHANISTAN

FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN HAVANA

FL210215Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0032 GMT 21 May 78 FL

[Press conference at which Hafizollah Amin, Afghan vice prime minister and foreign minister, speaks to representatives of the Cuban press. Television commentator Armando Lopez Junco is the moderator. The reporters are announced but not identified. Questions are in Spanish with consecutive English translation. Amin speaks in English, with consecutive Spanish translation--live or recorded.]

[Text] [Lopez Junco] Dear television viewers, His Excellency Mr Hafizollah Amin, Afghan deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has graciously agreed to appear before Cuban television. As is known, Mr Amin is in Havana attending the nonalined countries Coordinating Bureau meeting, which should have taken place in Kabul, the Afghan capital, early this month. The occurrences in Afghanistan, which permitted the new democratic government's rise to power, led to the [Nonalined Coordinating] Bureau meeting being held in New York and it decided that this foreign ministers' meeting should be held in Havana, this appearance is possible. Comrades Edel Suarez of PRENSA LATINA, Orlando Contreras of the Cuban Radio and Television Institute, Juan Marrero of the newspaper GRANMA and Lazaro Fernandez of the newspaper JUVENTUD REBELDE make up the panel of reporters who will interview the distinguished Afghan representative. Go ahead.

[Reporter number one] First question: We would like to know what the main foreign policy principles are that guide the activity of the new Afghan Government.

[Amin] I think that main principles of the foreign policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has been explained correctly and that the policy statement was given by our president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. You might have seen it explained here in detail which consists of pursuance of a foreign policy of nonalinement for the positive and active nonalinement, establishment of good relations with neighboring countries and consolidating, widening and expansion of friendly relations with our great northern neighbor, the Soviet Union, with which we have more than 6 years with good and friendly relations which we call it peaceful boundaries with the Soviet Union and is a good example, as a good example for all the world. [sentence as heard] It is not only unshakeable; it will be developing for the good of the both countries.

And related to Pakistan, we also want to have good relations with them and just we hope that the only political problems, problems which exists between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which is the national issue of the Pashtun and Baluchi people, that should be solved on their worth, on the basis of historical background. And this solution hoping will be solved through peaceful negotiations between the two governments, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

We have very good relations with India which have been rooted back in history, and we want to have, to establish, friendly relations with Iran and China.

[Reporter number two] Mr Minister, in your opinion, given the present relation of forces in the world, what role should the nonalined countries movement play?

[Amin] We are very much interested in the nonalined movement. We hope that with the strong consolidation between the nonalined countries they can fight the imperialists' aggression, colonialism in new and old forms, and they can protect and defend their people who are attacked in all parts of the world.

[Reporter number three] Would you be so kind as to explain to us the basic causes that set off the revolutionary uprising that just recently occurred in your country?

[Amin] You know that President Daud, who just nominally called his regime the Republic of Afghanistan, and orally promised many things to the people, he didn't accomplish in the least. He was inclined to reactionary forces in the region. He didn't attack the feudals and he kept feudalism in power so the people were impoverishing [as heard]. They didn't have work to do; they didn't have food; they didn't have shelter; they didn't have clothes. So the peoples couldn't tolerate oppression which was forced on them by the old regime--despotism, tyranny and nepotism. All these were the intolerable facts which were forced on the people. And they caused the collapse of the Daud regime.

[Reporter number one] Mr vice prime minister, you were in jail with Prime Minister Taraki and other leaders on 27 April when the events took place that led to the democratic and revolutionary process in Afghanistan. Would you please tell us your story about those events?

[Amin] It requires to tell you something about our party before the revolution took place. Our party was established by the first congress on January 1965 under the leadership [of] Nur Mohammad Taraki, who was elected as the general secretary of the party. In the last more than 13 years, the party worked in the masses, and workers, peasantry, intellectuals and other strata of the people. Particularly in the recent years, the party worked very widely in the army in a secret way. So the party have got a strong hold in the army as well in the people.

When the Daud regime was inclined to reactionary circles in the region, so he started to arrest the leaders of the party [word indistinct]. On early in the morning on 26 April, Comrade Taraki and other, and some other, leaders of the party were arrested. I was put in house arrest right from the beginning of the 26 of April. So when I found that Comrade Taraki was in jail, as I have previous order from the party according to [as heard], I started organizing and planning the revolution.

I could get in touch with those members of the party who were working in the army and were connected with me because I was responsible for work in the army for our Central Committee, as a member of the Central Committee. So I gave the full planning and a map of the revolution to be started on at 9 o'clock in the morning on 27 April. At 11 o'clock I was taken to the prison. But the planning was completed, so all our party members in the army had got in touch according to the plan which I had given them. So, on the morning of 27 they started to the revolution. But I should say that at the evening of 26 of April the government radio announced the name of the members of the Central Committee who were arrested. It also helped the planning of the revolution, and the party members in the army were more excited.

In the meantime, the government put the army all through the country on alert because the government knew that the party members would not be happy, would be unhappy, what she had done. So while the army was alert for according to the order of the government [as heard], most of them were our party members. For example, in the air force, which was located in five airports, military airports, the complete command was in the hand of our members, so one plane didn't fly for the government. And the tank regiments were also under complete control of our party members, so that at 9 o'clock our party members departed on tanks as well as on planes and started announcing the beginning of the revolution, according to the party members who were given to them which were the orders were given to them by Hafizollah Amin, whom they know that he was responsible the army. [sentence as heard] So the revolution started and went on just according to the map which I had sent to them.

We were in the prison. The tanks came at 5 o'clock in the evening and rescued us and took us--our party members, our officers--and put us in the tanks and took us to the Radio Afghanistan which was a center of the revolution. When we arrived to the headquarters which was Radio Afghanistan, the officers automatically gave me the command of the revolution. So from 5 o'clock at the evening until 9 o'clock in the morning of 28 April, I was commanding the revolution.

When we were taken to the headquarters of the revolution, it was some few minutes past 5 o'clock, and the leadership of the party arranged the proclamation, and the proclamation was announced on radio at 7 'oclock in the evening on 27 April. When the proclamation was heard through the country in all regiments, in all over the country, our party members who were officers took power and they [put] all the generals and marshals in jail and arrested them so there was no resistance in any regiment in the country outside the capital, except in one province, was (Mengrahar) where the general and the governor were killed, and all other regiments the party members took power without any resistance. So that's why we call it the revolution of 27 April.

[Reporter number two] In your opinion, what are the dangers and main obstacles, both internal and external, that Afghanistan will have to face in its march toward consolidating the revolutionary process?

[Amin] The danger which could be mentioned? Inside the country, I don't see any danger from the people's side, because the revolution has been supported very stanchly and strongly by the people. But you know that wherever a real revolution and a revolution is going, the start by the agents of imperialism and reaction. [sentence as heard] So the imperialists' centers, imperialists' circles and their servants want to encourage the fanatic religious leaders with the help of the feudal who feel themselves in danger. Some problems may arise. But in any way, as we have the support of the people, and we have friends all over the world, we are sure that with the support of the people and the help of our friends we can crush any resistance which arise at the front of, before our revolution.

[Reporter number three] One last question. What is the present state of Cuban-Afghan relations?

[Amin] As far as I know from our people and from our party, Cuba, revolutionary Cuba, is very much loved by the people of Afghanistan. This is not new since your revolution, particularly since the establishment of our party, Cuba has been explained to the people and the great leader of Cuba has been introduced to the people who was very well received all over the country. [sentence as heard]

And our party members, and all our party members as well as those who are involved in progressive parties are very much interested to have a permanent resident Cuban Embassy in Afghanistan. When I was leaving Afghanistan, some of my comrades asked me to bring a Cuban ambassador with myself when I come back to the country. So we are sure that the revolutionary Cuba will be ready to help us in any field, particularly in economics as we need it. So the future relations and brotherly relations between the two countries will be developed as well as both peoples want it. [applause]

[Lopez Junco] Are there any more questions? Perhaps you wish to make an additional statement?

[Amin] Well, if you don't have any questions, I don't have any particular things. Again I want to express my great pleasure due to the very friendly and brotherly hospitality for myself. The members of the delegation representing Afghanistan in this conference which the hospitality which we received from the Government of Cuba as well of the people of Cuba, though it was not unexpected for us, because we knew that the brotherhood relations had been existed [as heard] between the two countries, but that it has been proved in practice which we saw in Cuba, in Havana. So that I want to express my deep happiness and pleasure through you to the people of Cuba. Thank you.

[Lopez Junco] We, for our part, wish to thank the deputy prime minister and foreign minister for graciously agreeing to this interview for Cuban television. Thank you very much.

DELHI: FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN HAPPY WITH INDIA TIES

BK200952Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 78 BK

[Text] The Afghan vice premier and foreign minister, Mr Hafizollah Amin, has spoken warmly of India-Afghan ties. In an interview with the AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent in Havana, where he is attending the Nonalined Bureau Meeting, Mr Amin said that the people of Afghanistan are happy that India was the second country to recognize the new government.

Mr Amin said the friendly relations between the two countries will be further strengthened for mutual benefit.

TANJUG REPORTS PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S ACTS

LD220746Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0321 GMT 22 May 78 LD

[Text] Kabul: The Afghan public has been informed today that in schools throughout the country "members of the Organization of Democratic Youth are actively and energetically functioning." Nothing was hitherto known about the existence of this youth organization, linked with the ruling People's Democratic Party. Reports from many meetings and celebrations in the provinces in honor of the victory of the revolution spoke only of the "great participation of young people" in these political activities.

There have as yet been no reports concerning the work of this youth organization at the university here (which has about 8,000 students) nor about its work in other towns. It is believed, however, that action to organize young people has already begun, as has action to organize workers into trade unions.

With regard to the activity of the People's Democratic Party, there is no detailed information circulating apart from the news that "party committees have now been formed in all settlements, even in the most remote parts of the country, with the aim of monitoring and directing the work of the executive organs of power."

KABUL WARNS FOOD PRODUCERS, SELLERS AGAINST DECEPTION

LD212254Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 May 78 LD/BK

[Summary] Here is a Commerce Ministry statement:

The Commerce Ministry hereby informs all the producers and sellers of goods to refrain from the production and sale of goods which bear false trade marks. Any person who acts against the public interest by violating this announcement will be punished in accordance with the spirit of the revolution.

TARAKI MEETS TRIBAL OFFICIALS FROM PAKTIA PROVINCE

LD211750Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 May 78 LD/BK

[Excerpt] Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan said today at a meeting with the leaders and notables of the Zadran tribes of Paktia Province:

The victorious revolution of 27 April, which took place under the leadership of the Democratic People's Party of Afghanistan, eliminated despotism in Afghanistan forever.

The president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister added: Today the people's revolutionary order has been established in our beloved homeland. I give you, my brothers, this tiding that despots will no longer exist in this country and our people (?will live) in a peaceful, tranquil, free and democratic atmosphere.

The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent reports that Nur Mohammad Taraki received the notables of Ebrahim Khil and Tabar Khel of the Zadran of Paktia at 0730 today at the Revolutionary Council headquarters and held talks with them while Muhammad Soleyman Layeq, minister of radio and television, was present. The president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister expressed pleasure over meeting the notables of Zadran and, while describing the sacred aims of the 27 April revolution, said in an address to them:

I hope you will convey my best wishes to every individual of the patriotic people whom you represent on your return to your province. The president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister added: I hope to visit (?my compatriots) in their villages and hamlets.

TRIBE, LOCAL LEADERS SEND CONGRATULATIONS TO KABUL

LD211952Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 May 78 LD/BK

[Summary] The Pushtuns of Qandahar, in a letter to the minister of border affairs, have congratulated the success of the revolution of 27 April under the leadership of the Revolutionary Council and have pledged all forms of cooperation to the Government of Afghanistan.

According to another report, the people of Khaybar, Bajawar and (?Shirman) have also sent messages of congratulations to the president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and his colleagues and have prayed for the welfare of the people of Afghanistan.

BANGLADESH

HELP FOR BURMESE REFUGEES SOUGHT FROM UN

BK191608Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 May 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has urged the UN secretary general to approach the member states for assistance and cooperation in meeting the needs of the Burmese refugees. In a cable sent to Dr Waldheim, the presidential adviser for foreign affairs, Prof Shamsul Haq, said that international assistance and cooperation is necessary in view of the magnitude of the problem and the urgent necessity of the Burmese refugees.

Professor Haq said the number of these refugees, who are in a pitiful plight, has already exceeded 150,000. He expressed his fear that this number is likely to be 200,000 people before long.

The adviser said immediate action by the United Nations is necessary for dealing with the problems of housing, feeding, clothing and medical care of the refugees until their repatriation and rehabilitation in their own home in Burma.

Professor Haq informed the UN secretary general that Bangladesh has been confronted with a critical situation as a result of the mass exodus of Burmese nationals, uprooted from their hearths and homes, under horrifying conditions.

He said the Burmese action is a serious violation of fundamental human rights and also of the sanctity of the international [words indistinct].

The adviser said that although for humanitarian reasons Bangladesh is offering them temporary shelter, it is a burden impossible for Bangladesh to bear for any length of time.

INDIA

FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA HOLDS TALKS IN MOSCOW

BK191010Y Delhi ISI in English 0833 GMT 19 May 78 BK

[Text] Foreign Secretary Jagat Mehta on May 18 had a 1-hour meeting with Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Arkhipov who is co-chairman of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission for Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation, reports PTI.

Ambassador I.K. Gujaral accompanied Mehta to the meeting at which the questions of expanded cooperation visualised at the last session of the joint commission in Delhi earlier this year were said to have been discussed.

An official spokesman said the meeting was held in an extremely warm and cordial atmosphere. He described the discussions as constructive. The meeting was a high point of the formal and informal exchange of views spread over the entire day on May 18 between officials of Foreign Ministries of the two countries.

A major topic at the formal session on the morning of May 18 was said to be the coming session of the United Nations devoted to disarmament on which both countries place great importance. The Indian Ocean was also discussed. On this, the Soviet side presumably briefed India on the developments in the Soviet-American negotiations.

Questions of multilateral importance also came up when the delegations of the two countries met at a luncheon hosted by First Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Maltsev and a reception later by Gujral.

Indian Ambassador I.K. Gujral on May 17 handed over a personal letter from Prime Minister Morarji Desai to Prime Minister Aleksey Kosygin in Kremlin. Gujral took the opportunity of the Kremlin meeting to discuss the forthcoming visit of Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram which was simultaneously announced in Delhi and Moscow. Minister in the Indian Embassy Doctor J.S. Teja accompanied Gujral to the meeting.

Talks Conclude

BK200920Y Delhi ISI in English 0847 GMT 20 May 78 BK

[Text] The 3-day Indo-Soviet bilateral Foreign Office consultations have ended in Moscow. At the concluding session on May 19, the foreign secretary, Jagat Mehta, spoke of India's desire to improve relations with all countries, particularly her neighbours, reports AIR [All India Radio].

Jagat Mehta had a meeting with Skachkov, head of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and Sergey Lapin, chairman, the State Committee for Adio and Television. Questions of bilateral cooperation firgured in these meetings.

PTI adds: Mehta leaves for Helsinki on May 20 while other members of his delegation return home. Mehta will join the foreign minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on May 22 on his official visit to Austria.

BANGLADESH EVACUEES REPORTEDLY ENTERING TRIPURA

BK200954Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 78 BK

[Text] The Tripura chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, has said that about 3,000 people from Bangladesh, mostly tribals from the Chittagong hill tract, have entered Tripura. Speaking to newsmen in Calcutta, Mr Chakraborty said his government is now trying to place them in camps, as it is not possible to push them back.

The Tripura chief minister, who was on his way to Delhi, added that he will ask the center to take up the matter with the Bangladesh Government.

NEWSPAPER REPORTS U-2'S BASED IN INDIA OVERFLEW PRC

BK200458Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0450 GMT 20 May 78 BK

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 20 May--American U-2 spy planes operated from Indian territory from 1963 to 1965 to overfly China, according to an article by Kuldip Nayar published here today by the morning newspaper INDIAN EXPRESS. The writer said the planes, brought in from Bangkok, used three specially-built secret airports--one in the state of Orissa, south of Calcutta, and the other two in the Himalaya foothills.

A special body with the cover name of the Aviation Research Centre was created in 1963 by the New Delhi government to coordinate U-2 activity in India, he said.

Prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, initially opposed to the project, was reportedly won over after India's defeat in a frontier conflict with China in the autumn of 1962.

VAJPAYEE LEAVES FOR VISIT TO FRG, AUSTRIA

BK210618Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0609 GMT 21 May 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, May 21 (AFP)--India's Foreign Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee left here today for a three-day official visit to Austria where he is expected tomorrow after a stopover in Frankfurt, West Germany.

Mr Vajpayee said before leaving that his talks with Austria's leaders would centre on disarmament and international detente.

JAGJIVAN RAM LEAVES FOR USSR VISIT 22 MAY

BK220715Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 May 78 BK

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Jagjivan Ram, left for Moscow this morning on a tour of four European countries. He will first visit the Soviet Union. From there he will go to the German Democratic Republic, Yugoslavia and Britain. His visit to the Soviet Union is at the invitation of the defense minister of that country.

The first round of official-level talks between the two countries will be held today itself. The defense secretary, Mr S. BanerJee, is accompanying the defense minister. The final round of talks with the Soviet leaders will be held on the 26th of this month.

NEPAL

SOVIET DELEGATION ARRIVES TO HOLD OIL, TRADE TALKS

BK191512Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT 19 May 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu, May 19 (AFP)--Official negotiations between the Soviet Union and Nepal are being held on the question of long term supply of petroleum products to this landlocked country.

A two-member Soviet trade delegation headed by Mr A.P. Filatov, the chief of the Asian Trade Department of the Soviet Commerce Ministry, arrived here yesterday.

An official announcement over Radio Nepal this morning stated that the delegation, during its 5-day stay in Katmandu, will also hold talks with Nepalese officials on various aspects of Nepal-Soviet trade relations. During the negotiations, according to the official source, a long term agreement for the supply of the petroleum products will be worked out.

Landlocked Nepal had been entirely depending on India for petroleum products, but this suddenly stopped after the fall of 1974 following the political differences between Nepal and India over the Sikkim issue.

Since early 1975 Nepal had been importing crude oil from Gulf countries, but its requirements were so low that the cost of transportation was over 20 percent higher than for the Indian products. India as a gesture has agreed to supply a finished oil from Asonsol, the neighbouring district in West Bengal, in place of crude oil with concessional handling charges.

For the last 2 years Nepal imported an average 80,000 metric tons of petroleum products from the Soviet Union but largely diesel and kerosene oil. But now Nepal's requirements have swollen to over 120,000 metric tons annually.

PRC BOUNDARY PANEL OFFICIAL CALLS ON PREMIER BISTA

BK191516Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 19 May 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu, May 19 (AFP)--Mr Tsao Sheng-kung, leader of the Chinese side of the Nepal-China Boundary Joint Inspection Committee and deputy director of the Foreign Ministry of China, called on Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista at his office here this afternoon.

Chinese Ambassador Peng Kuang-wei was also present on the occasion.

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